

HOME NEWS

Miners' leaders likely to support pay and productivity deal after coal board improves offer

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday made a hurried improvement in its pay and productivity deal to avoid a damaging clash with the miners over wages. As a result miners' leaders are expected to recommend the proposals to the men today in a secret pithead ballot.

The negotiating committee of the National Union of Miners' workers at first rejected the proposed deal by seven votes to six, and had that decision been carried through the union's policy machinery there would have been no alternative but to proceed seriously with a claim for weekly rises of up to 90 per cent.

But news of the vote was communicated to the coal board, and it made a £1 a week improvement in the offer while the negotiators were meeting.

The vote was taken again, and Mr Joe McKie, who represents the moderate Midlands coalfield, transferred his vote to make it seven to six in favour of the package. It will almost certainly be recommended for acceptance at today's meeting of the full NUM executive.

As it stands, the productivity deal would give coalface workers rises of £3.50 a week if they meet an agreed target of output for their face. Underground workers closely

associated with coal getting would receive 65 per cent of the incentive bonus, men elsewhere underground half and surface workers two fifths.

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the union, wants the scheme to start as close to November 1 as possible, because that is the date from which the conference claim for rises of £65 for face workers would take effect.

The claim is not being pursued with vigour because the dominant moderate group on the executive does not want a politically embarrassing clash with the TUC over the 12-month rule. The miners are not due for another pay rise until next March, but the present income policy permits self-financing productivity bargaining.

However, the claim for £135 a week at the face, £114 elsewhere underground, and £92 in the surface will be submitted, and if progress towards a productivity deal is not sustained that demand will come to the fore. The coal board is bound by government policy as state employers could not meet either the starting date or the size of the claim.

Several hundred militant miners from Yorkshire are travelling to London to lobby this morning's meeting of the NUM executive. They are calling on their leaders to pursue the big claim rather than pro-

ductivity bargaining. A smaller contingent is expected from other coalfields urging the executive to proceed with the pit incentive scheme.

Mr Gormley said after yesterday's meeting that the NUM position over wages will be discussed again when the coal board replies to the claim.

He agreed that the negotiators' recommendation to submit the claim, which "seeks to achieve" the new figures, might seem contrary to the 12-month rule. "But there are so many agreements breaking it, and we could be caught if we are not careful," he added.

The strongest opposition to the proposed pit incentive scheme is coming from Yorkshire. The coalfield's left-wing president, Mr Arthur Scargill, said yesterday that such a reversal to piecework in the mines would result in death, disease and disability for many miners.

Kent miners, also militant opponents of the scheme, are taking legal advice about the constitutionality of the present negotiations.

The policy-making conference of the TUC, which according to the rule book is its sovereign body, rejected the principle of local incentives by 137 votes to 134 in July, but negotiations were restarted last month after protests from moderate areas. Mr Gormley regards a pithead ballot as having the final say

Health body calls for inquiry into closure

By Geoffrey Browning

An emergency motion calling on Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, to hold a public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the closure of Hounslow Hospital last week was passed by Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Area Health Authority last night.

The authority, which sanctioned the closure, took the decision by 15 votes to four after speakers at a sometimes noisy meeting had said that they had been inadequately informed about the sudden transfer of 21 elderly patients to West Middlesex Hospital. There were two abstentions.

A vote not to discuss a motion calling for the decision to be rescinded drew protests from public galleries crowded with nurses and other trade unionists. After repeated interruptions Mr Thomas Meyer, the chairman, adjourned the meeting, and during the interval the protesters were ushered out by police officers.

Demands for a public inquiry have been made by the National Union of Public Employees (Nape), the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) and the Labour group on Hounslow Borough Council.



Trade union demonstrators outside Hammersmith Town Hall yesterday.

Mr Ennals has supported the authority's action and said no patient suffered.

The meeting at Hammersmith Town Hall was lobbied by about 900 Nape and Nalgo members. London hospitals were disrupted because of action over events at Hounslow and public spending cuts in general.

There were stoppages by ancillary staff, administrators, nurses and technicians at West

London Hospital, Western Hospital, Charing Cross, and St Bernard's Hospital, Southall, but the authorities said services were maintained.

At the health authority meeting Mr Alfred King, of Hounslow Borough Council, said he considered that the officers who carried out the transfer of patients were acting legitimately, but many people

thought that the action was wrong.

Other members complained that they had not been told of the methods to be used to close the hospital.

Consultants said none of the patients had been adversely affected. One said four patients had been admitted to Hounslow Hospital without the consent or knowledge of the consultant in charge.

Union chiefs call for £3,500m expansion

By Our Labour Editor

Trade union leaders are asking the Government to expand the economy through measures costing £3,500m, with the intention of providing 250,000 new jobs over the next year.

The TUC economic committee drew up proposals yesterday to put to the Chancellor in talks on Monday week. It wants a two-stage stimulation of the economy, beginning with immediate increases in public spending followed by tax cuts next April.

In his forthcoming measures, Mr Healey is asked to adopt a five-point programme of extra state spending: a £15 Christmas bonus for pensioners; food subsidies; no increase in the cost of school

meals; an extra £1 a week on child benefits; and an increase in public spending on building and other capital projects, local authority spending and job subsidies.

The programme is estimated to cost £2,000m and the second tranche of £1,500m would come with tax cuts next spring. The TUC wants a lower tax band to be introduced so that taxpayers would pay only 20 to 25 per cent on the first part of their taxable income.

The union leaders accept that because of administrative difficulties it would be impossible to change the tax system before April. But if the changes are made they want the system to be biased in favour of the lower-paid.

In return for economic expansion the TUC would adhere strictly to the congress decision that all workers should accept a phase two settlement and wait a full year before their next pay rise. Disident unions, including the Merchant Navy officers, journalists and printing workers are being called in to have the policy explained to them.

The economic committee elected Mr Joseph Drain, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, as a TUC representative on the National Economic Development Council. He replaces the late Sir Daniel MacGarry.

Staff shortage in ministry's welfare service

By Our Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence's welfare services face a crisis because of a pay dispute. The council of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association decided last night to tell the ministry that it could not fill vacancies for social workers unless it could offer higher salaries.

At present the association's five workers in British home-based garrisons earn between £2,983 and £3,774; those overseas receive between £3,003 and £3,690, and a £435 weighting allowance.

The association wants the ministry to pay its staff the full local authority rates of between £3,862 and £3,975 at home and £3,768 to £3,867 abroad. (Overseas pay, unlike home pay, is tax free).

It has been told that its workers cannot receive joint council rates because they do not train student workers. But the ministry has agreed to appoint a qualified social worker to lead the association's workers in London and to establish a senior social worker to head the staff of 14 with British forces in West Germany.

Waste disposal firm fined £400

P. D. Pollution Control Ltd, a waste disposal company, of Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, left bags of blue asbestos in Folly Quarry, Greenside, where children played. Blaydon magistrates were told yesterday.

The company admitted disposing of the asbestos in an unsafe way. It was fined the maximum of £400.

Attacked girl dies

Carole Wilkinson, aged 20, who was sexually attacked and left lying in a pool of blood on Monday near her home in Ranelagh Avenue, Ravenscliffe, Bradford, died in hospital last night.

Code secrets of German war effort

Continued from page 1
decrypted contents of many of the boxes.

The material will not appear in the raw condition in which code-breakers transcribed intercepted signals. Rather it will take the form of appreciations and summaries sent to the intelligence directorates of the Armed Services, of which that derived from Ultra, as the code-breaking operation was known, was consistently the most valuable.

The first instalment available

on Monday includes D-day in the period from November 18, 1943, to August 31, 1944. It contains 30,000 individual items.

The decision to disclose such highly sensitive material was taken by ministers in 1974. It was stimulated by several partial and misleading accounts of Ultra that were beginning to appear and by the conviction that the breaking of Enigma was a story greatly to Britain's credit that should be told.

Ministers will not extend the practice of extending the disclosure of material from intelligence agencies into the postwar period. To do so, it is thought in Whitehall, would breach irreparably the convention that espionage activities are not publicly acknowledged in peace-time.

The abrogation of this rule for the Second World War does not mean that all of "Ultra's" secrets will be disclosed. The techniques used in breaking the Enigma machine will not be disclosed.

The names of agents in the field are also to be kept secret. Likewise, material furnished by the breaking of the code used by the Abwehr, the German military intelligence, is most unlikely to be disclosed unless extracts appear in the general appreciations sent to the service directorates.

A two-volume official history of wartime intelligence is in preparation in the Cabinet Office by a team working under Professor F. H. Hinsley, of Cambridge University. Volume one is complete, covering the period up to the invasion of the Soviet Union in June, 1941. Ministers will take a decision on whether it is to be published in whole or in part next year, when the second volume is expected to be finished.

In the meantime, much new material will appear in a book to be published in January. Entitled *Most Secret War*, it has been written by Professor R. V. Jones, of Aberdeen University, a former scientific adviser to MI6 and assistant director of intelligence at the Air Ministry. Reputations at stake, page 16.

IRA funds from America still dropping as Mr Mason seeks more investment

From Michael Leapman

New York, Oct 12

Funds reaching Irish republicans from their American sympathizers have fallen sharply in the past five years and the trend is continuing.

That has been confirmed by officials in the Justice Department in Washington who monitor such fund-raising and by British officials travelling with Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The money goes mostly to the Provisional IRA. With that support dwindling, Mr Mason is visiting the United States to try to raise money for a more constructive purpose.

He is calling on companies to persuade them to invest in Northern Ireland or to increase existing investments, using as a bait the recently

announced grants and other in investment incentives.

He has one success already in this week's announcement that du Pont will reequip its London plant, a poignant gesture since the company's chief local representative was killed there less than a year ago.

In New York last night Mr Mason gave an optimistic press conference calculated to assure potential investors that the strife did not make the province an unsuitable place to pour down their money.

He emphasized the recent decrease in terrorist actions.

Northern Ireland is emerging from the darkness of the past few years. The violent men now find it impossible to maintain their sustained campaign of terror."

Mr Lynch asks for aspirations to be recognized

From Craig Seaton

Dublin

Mr Lynch, the Irish Prime Minister, called yesterday for an acknowledgement by the British Government of the legitimate aspiration of the Irish people to see a united Ireland.

It would take nothing from the honour of Britain or the rights of the majority in Northern Ireland to acknowledge that aspiration, he said. It would encourage the people of the island to progress together as a nation in harmony with the United Kingdom.

Mr Lynch, reporting to the new session of the Dail on his meetings in London last month with Mr Callaghan, said he had told the British Prime Minister that our inference from the Irish general election, which returned Fianna Fail to power with a large majority, was that the wish for a united Ireland was "as alive and as potent as it ever had been among the people of this country".

Mr Lynch said earlier: "We are interested only in progress by reconciliation. We want for Northern Ireland the stability that only a lasting peace can bring.

He was giving evidence at the hearing at the Central Criminal Court at which the four are appealing against their convictions in 1975.

Mr Dowd, serving a life sentence for IRA activities in England, was asked by Sir Michael Havers, QC, for the Crown, when his conscience pricked him about the arrests.

He replied: "After I was arrested."

Mr Dowd maintains that he and others were responsible for the two bombings, not three Irishmen, Patrick Armstrong, Paul Hill and Gerard Conlon, and a London girl, Carole Richardson.

The hearing continues today.

Terrorist says he was pub bomber

Brendan Dowd, a convicted IRA terrorist, told the Court of Appeal yesterday that he roared with laughter when he was told that four people had been arrested for the Guildford and Woolwich public house bombings. He said he laughed because the four, who were all later jailed for life, did not carry out the bombings.

He was giving evidence at the hearing at the Central Criminal Court at which the four are appealing against their convictions in 1975.

The regular driver, a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, was sick and Mr Cavanagh, the relief driver, was on his first run on the route.

The Western Education and Library Board, which runs the bus service, said Mr Cavanagh was unemployed but was quite often called upon if a regular man fell ill.

The bus was near the beginning of its morning run through to Tyrone hamlets, picking up children.

The driver was shot dead by at least two gunmen, who had been lying in wait behind a hedge.

The hearing continues today.

Bus driver killed in mistaken identity murder

A driver who shot dead at the wheel of his school bus in Tyrone, Northern Ireland, yesterday. A girl aged 14, the only passenger, was grazed on the head by a bullet.

Gunmen struck soon after the bus began its regular morning run at Triskas, near Ballygawley.

Mr Frank Cavanagh, aged 47, a driver, a married man with a young family, from Carickmore, co Tyrone, appears to have died because he was mistaken for someone else.

The regular driver, a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, was sick and Mr Cavanagh, the relief driver, was on his first run in a few months.

In the past year in innumerable more young people have sought to join the party, said that people's rally would be in a few months.

If the section is joined it is hoped to set up youth schools, clubs and other where young people can be involved.

Tyndall emphasized that groups in schools counterbalance "Marxism" in the teaching profession.

Front plans a section for young people

By Robert Parker

The National Front is to form a section for young people between 14 and 18. It is meeting on Saturday to consider a proposal for a national directorate.

"Young National Front" Mr John Tyndall, leader of the party, said that the proposal was passed by people's rally would be in a few months.

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Tyndall emphasized that groups in schools counterbalance "Marxism" in the teaching profession.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols are as following: solid line, cold front; dashed line, warm front; dot, occlusion; cross, stationary front.

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Dry, sunny, rather cloudy later; wind S, moderate or fresh; max temp 17°C (63°F).

N. Wales, NW England, Borders, E Anglia, Scotland, SW England, Glasgow: Dry, sunny spells; wind S, moderate or fresh; max temp 16°C (61°F).

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Mostly dry

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Ford Cortina 1600L and similar	Daily £5.85 (6p) Unlimited Weekly £63.05	£6.25 (6½p) £75.00	£6.25 (6½p) £71.75	£7.00 (8p) £115.00
Ford Connex Estate 1600L and similar	Daily £6.75 (7p) Unlimited Weekly £72.80	£8.50 (8½p) £102.00	£8.25 (8½p) £94.50	£11.00 (11p) N/A
Ford Granada 3000 GL and similar	Daily £9.75 (10p) Unlimited Weekly £109.85	£13.00 (12½p) N/A	£12.50 (13p) £141.75	£19.00 (19p) N/A

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HOME NEWS

System of social security 'a maze'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The entire social security system has become such a maze of complicated rules and regulations that neither claimants nor officials can be expected to understand it unless it is completely overhauled. That view is offered today in the final report of the Check! Rights Centre, which operated for five years in Liverpool until March this year.

The present system offers a bewildering number of benefits offering choices that can significantly affect the weekly income of claimants, the report says. But information to the public about benefits varies and is often scanty, officials deliberately withholding information.

After 15 months in December, 1976, Check! opened up 600 cases, mainly concerning supplementary benefits but nearly a sixth were national insurance cases. It found mistakes in assessing entitlement to be common, with the offices concerned unresponsive to mistakes until the agency, fortified by experience, persistence, and a budget to pursue cases by letter and telephone, intervened.

The report is critical, too, of the way benefit is sometimes withdrawn or refused because evidence supporting claims is not accepted.

The remedy, the report suggests, is to provide an adequate income without resort to means tests for the main groups who now depend on social security. That would mean raising pensions and national insurance benefits at the supplementary benefit level, continuing to pay unemployment benefit throughout the period people are unemployed and introducing new benefits for one-parent families and disabled people.

Check! Rights Centre, Final Report, 1977. (British Association of Settlements, 7 Exton Street, London, SE1 8UB) free.

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

A scheme for transferring the task of assessing eligibility for legal aid to private solicitors from legal officers employed by the Department of Health and Social Security was criticized yesterday by the Civil and Public Services Association.

Mrs Diana Warwick, the union's assistant secretary responsible for members in the department, said the proposed pilot scheme was a dangerous innovation which would save only a hundred posts.

"If solicitors are doing their job in acting in the interests of their clients they may not be prepared to produce all the information necessary to make an agreed assessment." She believed that solicitors might well use the complexity of the scheme to make more money because of the extra time involved.

The Law Society said: "If there is some way in which a solicitor can do a better job for his client within the scheme, he has every right to do so." Solicitors already judged

Loss of ministry task to solicitors attacked

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The union yesterday produced a booklet detailing the impact of proposed spending cuts. The department has been told to reduce spending by £14.4m in 1978-79 at 1975 costings, meaning the loss of 5,000 jobs out of 45,000.

Mrs Warwick said cuts in home visiting would mean a loss of personal contact with many claimants, particularly the unemployed and the elderly. Their information on the complicated social security system would be limited to a leaflet and an interview of about 15 minutes at the counter. Underpayments were much more serious than overpayments. It was estimated that £36m in benefits was not paid out every year.

The union's national disputes committee has been given authority for protest action if the cuts go ahead. The union's 53,000 members in the department were angry, frustrated and determined to fight.

Pilots 'use sleeping pills without medical advice'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Some airline pilots use hypnotic sleeping pills against the rules of their employers, Wing Commander A. Nicholson, of the Royal Air Force Institute of Aviation Medicine, told a conference of the Civil Aviation Medical Association in London yesterday.

Such drugs, although obtainable in Britain only on prescription, can be bought freely in some places abroad, particularly in the Far East.

Dr Nicholson indicated that he was not completely against

entitlement to legal aid under the "green form" scheme and they had not been found to be dishonest in doing that.

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No charge for pupils taking own sandwiches

From Our Correspondent
Milton Keynes

A proposal that Bedfordshire parents who give their children sandwiches rather than pay for a school lunch should be charged was rejected unanimously yesterday by Bedfordshire county councillors.

The proposal came from Peter Browning, Bedfordshire chief education officer. He said it would cost ratepayers £25,000 this year to provide the 5,000 pupils who daily take packed lunches to school. The facilities included dining rooms, says, vestry staff, cleaners, crock and cutlery.

The suggestion of a charge has been attacked by the Child Poverty Action Group.

After yesterday's meeting the council's education, planning and general purposes committee, Councillor Tim Andrews, a Labour member, said: "I thought the suggestion was deplorable, and it was a view which the committee agreed with. We are aiming at people who, in the worst position to pay."

He said that if the proposal had not been brought in to attention some members of the committee might have voted in favour of the proposal without realising what it meant.

Councillor Ann Flint, parents should be encouraged to prepare sandwiches for their children since ratepayers should each school meal

trip.

The education authority to take a £25,000 budget next year. Since the cost of school dinners was 15p to 25p last month the number of pupils taking sandwiches has trebled to 9,000.

Boy's death brings criticism of much used services

Code planned for deputizing GPs

By Annabel Ferriman

The death of a Birmingham boy aged eight after a deputizing service doctor had failed to visit him has provoked widespread public criticism of deputizing services.

The Department of Health and Social Security is preparing a new code of practice for these services, which from small beginnings in 1956 now provide evening and weekend cover for about a third of all general practitioners.

Their increased use, particularly in London and urban areas in the Midlands and North-West, raises three fundamental questions. Are they necessary? Are they competent? Are they overused?

Much medical and lay opinion agrees that they serve a useful function. A general practitioner's contract requires him to provide a 24-hour service but the average doctor with a list of 2,500 patients will be called out only once every other night. Without a deputizing service, he will nevertheless have to stay by a telephone 24 hours a day, and may feel he cannot drink or relax.

Many patients nowadays do not have a close relationship with their own doctor, and provided they are supplied with one who is properly qualified in an emergency, do not usually complain.

A study carried out by the Centre for Studies in Social Policy shows that the rate of night visiting goes up when a deputizing service is used: deputies are more willing than general practitioners to venture out at night.

The quality of deputizing services is more debatable.

They vary from the highly effi-

cient to the comparatively lax.

Out of an estimated total of 42 services, 18 are sponsored by the British Medical Association and run by Aircall Ltd, which has strict regulations governing the standard of doctors employed and administrative methods used.

Doctors have to have six months' general practitioner experience and telephonists are trained for several weeks.

New doctors are provided with navigators until they know their area thoroughly and are not discouraged from consulting a patient's own doctor if he thinks it is important.

They operate a system of visiting on request, and always visit in the case of patients over 55 or children under two unless the caller specifically says they do not want a doctor.

Dangerous practices used by some services include giving medical advice on the telephone, failing to establish the correct priority for calls, and not informing the patient's own doctor of treatment administered.

Failure to record all calls can be another weakness and one for which the South Birmingham Deputizing Service was criticized at the inquest into the death from meningitis of Jason Bryant, aged eight. It meant that the service was unable to contact the parents to claim that they had telephoned to the service three times and had been told to give the boy an aspirin.

The quality of deputizing services is controlled by family practitioner committees. No doctor may use a service without his committee's permission which is given only if the committee is satisfied with the standards of the service.

The Birmingham committee, for example, demands that the names, ages and qualifications of all doctors employed by a service, how recently they were registered, how long they have had whether they can speak quite English. It also requires exact details of office practices, including methods of communication and how a patient's own doctor is informed of treatment.

These committees also control how often a doctor uses a service. It is laid down in the Department of Health and Social Security guidelines of 1966 that "consent should not be given to any arrangement under which the deputizing service would, for the practitioners, be open every night and weekend." Every doctor wants such arrangements to go on, and weekend, every night, and weekend, some of them are either unwilling or unable to control what is going on as an abuse of the service.

One factor that may prevent a service from doing this is the cost. Some of that can be recouped, however, in the form of £4.60 payment in general practitioner fees from the department for night calls made either night or his deputy.

The department's annual review of services and proposals for raising standards will be discussed in a later article.

To be cont'd

Unitary system of courts for family issues sought

By a Staff Reporter

A unitary system of family courts should be set up to hear all cases arising from domestic life, Professor Oliver McGregor, Professor of Social Institutions at London University, told a conference on single-parent families yesterday.

He said three systems of family law operated in England at present: the superior courts, which deal with such issues as divorce; magistrates' courts which enforced maintenance orders; and the Supplementary Benefits Commission, which provided welfare payments.

"It is wrong for different citizens to go to different courts; sometimes getting different remedies for the same matrimonial difficulties," he said. "We ought to have equality before the matrimonial law."

Professor McGregor, president of the National Council for One-Parent Families, who was a member of the Committee on One-Parent Families, told the conference organized in London by the Housing Centre Trust that all deserted women with children should have a guaranteed maintenance allowance from the state. It should be the responsibility of the state to reclaim the money from the husband.

The Department of Health and Social Security had changed its regulations recently and instructed its officers not

to advise deserted wives to apply for maintenance orders through the courts because that had proved too difficult to administer in practice.

Mrs Jo Tunney, assistant director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said women deserted by their husbands should be encouraged to keep their homes and take over responsibility for the mortgage.

Unfortunately many women were uninformed about their rights.

They were often not told that the DHSS was obliged to pay the interest on a mortgage if the husband was not paying it and they were receiving supplementary benefit.

Responsibility: Housing departments should take overall responsibility for housing single people and provide a wide range of accommodation for them, a report prepared for the Personal Social Services Council says today.

It says the number of single

householders in Britain rose

from 12 per cent of the total in

1950 to 20 per cent in 1975.

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there were 1.8 million

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HOME NEWS

National
Theatre
voucher plan
dropped

Our Arts Reporter

The National Theatre is to drop its voucher scheme of ticket selling which was introduced to keep down prices.

The theatre management explains that the system must be changed because the price of unnumbered tickets (vouchers) has risen steeply over the past 18 months to a level that negates the object of the scheme.

The union said the feeling now was that a gathering of reliable statistics could lead to more intelligent planning of resources to help all disadvantaged children.

The NUT reversal comes after a change in policy by the Inner London Education Authority.

Collecting facts: Statistics on the ethnic origin of children in London schools will be collected by the ILEA if a report by its education officer is accepted at a schools subcommittee meeting today.

The authority stopped collecting such statistics in 1974 in the relief of many teachers when it was no longer required to do so by the Department of Education and Science.

Mr Peter Newsam, education officer of the ILEA, said on Tuesday that it needed to know the distribution of ethnic minorities to plan the distribution of resources. The authority had 800 teachers trained to cope with their special needs but it is no longer required to do so by the Department of Education and Science.

More racism: Overt racism has increased in London schools, according to a report of the ILEA and the former Community Relations Commission published on Tuesday.

It was mainly the work of outside agencies, and the ILEA should examine whether the law was being broken, the report says. It recommends that the authority should prepare materials to combat racism.

River parkway plan

A plan for a river parkway is being prepared for about 30 miles of the Ouse and one of its tributaries in Yorkshire.

Records showed that 26 per cent or more of 1975 live births

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CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE/BLACKPOOL

Quick action promised to enable tenants to buy homes at discount

Within a few weeks of taking office the Conservatives would issue a circular setting out the terms on which they would encourage council house sales, and legislation giving tenants the legal right to buy their homes would follow quickly afterwards.

Mr Hugh Rossi, spokesman on housing and construction, gave that pledge in the debate on housing and land at the Conservative Party conference at Blackpool yesterday.

Conservatives would ensure that council houses would be sold at a discount of 30 per cent for a tenant of three years' occupation, and Mr Rossi said amid applause that he would like to see it rise even to 50 per cent for tenants of 20 years' standing.

On home ownership help for first-time buyers, he outlined the Conservative proposal to introduce a new scheme for rent-depart scheme, providing £1 for every £2 saved over two years up to a given limit.

The Tories would introduce pilot schemes for new forms of shared purchase to make home ownership more easily accessible, he said.

The conference carried a motion advocating a flexible housing policy to secure a sharp increase in home ownership. It advocated a programme of council house selling, support for shared purchase schemes, greater use of housing associations and control of mortgage rate fluctuations.

Mr Kevin Corcoran (Rochdale), chairman of the north-west Young Conservatives, said the party had to confront the socialist idea with the idea of a property-owning democracy.

It should help the young towards home ownership by assisting them with deposits.

It should remove uncertainty over interest rates by establishing a maximum mortgage rate which should not exceed that for a variety of reasons must rent.

Mrs Margaret Marshall (Women's National Advisory Committee) said: "Conservatives ought to look at the Conservatives' habit of gazing, which had again become a national curse."

No one could blame anyone for trying to get the maximum possible price for a house. What was important was that someone should lead somebody into spending substantial sums and then turn round and say 'sorry'.

Reports from Alan Wood, Robert Morgan, Bernard Withers, Howard Underwood and Stephen Goodwin, of our Parliamentary Staff.

The purchaser had no redress. Mr Robert Moreland, prospective candidate for Pontypool, said there was evidence that a substantial proportion of people in rented accommodation had to buy their homes. According to leaks from secret studies done within the Government, something like 70 per cent of the British people would like to buy their own homes.

Mr Chris Tyre (Federation of Conservative Students) said Scotland had the lowest ownership rate in Western Europe.

Improvement grants must be extended, help given to tenant cooperatives "and a hell of a lot more help" given to housing associations.

Mr Alan Johnson (Paddington) said there was a growing "sleeping bag population". Hundreds of students were forced to live in friends' flats, even in the streets and pubs. She blamed the Rent Act, particularly the 1974 Act.

Mr Rossi said that above all the debate showed that Conservatives believed in home ownership from conviction. It stabilized society and created pride of possession and self-respect.

Good luck to Cabinet ministers if they had town houses or country estates, but he could not accept that they should at the same time do the same to council tenants who ought to own their homes.

It was utterly detestable that they should preach socialism for all and practice socialism for others.

The Conservative had an honest and exciting housing policy for the broadest of society. At heart would be a new crusade to enable more families to own their own homes.

For those who remained council tenants the Conservative tenants' charter would give additional protection to the right to buy.

They would not abolish security of tenure overnight. That would cause unthinkable hardship, particularly in housing stress areas.

They must make the maximum effort between landlord and tenant to bring into use underused property. They would introduce fixed-term lettings.



Mr Michael Heseltine (top) hoping for Tory recruits from council estates; and Mr John Davies, shadow Foreign Secretary, listening to the debate.

Housing estates 'best party recruiting field'

Conservative's most fertile recruiting ground is on the council estates, Mr Michael Heseltine, shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, said in winding up a debate on homes and land. The shadow Foreign Secretary said that those who now recognize the desirability of socialism in practice, share our aspirations", he declared.

An innocuous motion carried by the conference urged the next Conservative government to adopt policies designed to solve the difficulties of inner cities and other old industrial areas.

Moving it, Mr A. G. Taylor (National Local Government Advisory Committee) said in winding up a debate on homes and land. The shadow Foreign Secretary said that those who now recognize the desirability of socialism in practice, share our aspirations", he declared.

Those who could be getting out of such areas. New factories and businesses did not choose inner cities because no good labour force was available.

Mr John Taylor (West Midlands) said more had to be done to release

the potential of the vast areas they were holding on to.

Mr Heseltine said far too many voters did not believe there were real distinctions between the parties locally, or that change in political control would in practice bring about any change.

The Liberal Party had set itself up as a watchdog of the constitution while in reality it had become Mr Callaghan's poodle.

To achieve that claim, Conservatives must create a distinctive style in the administration of authorities they controlled.

"We want this government out," he continued, "and in selling its houses to tenants.

It is not difficult to see that our does not start three weeks from a general election. It starts by struggling ceaselessly to destroy every power base of the Labour, Liberal and nationalist parties on every occasion."

The Liberal Party had set itself up as a watchdog of the constitution while in reality it had become Mr Callaghan's poodle.

On the side of council houses, they should follow the lead of the Conservative Birmingham Council, which had brought in the free enterprise agents to help in

the administration of its social services.

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WEST EUROPE

Nato 'depending again on nuclear tripwire'

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The Nato allies had reduced spending on conventional arms to such an extent that they were back to the "tripwire" policy of nuclear warfare, Lord Home of the Hurlst said in London yesterday.

In response to any attack on West Germany by the Soviet Union, tactical nuclear weapons would have to be used at once. "In my view the recent warning of Dr Luns, Nato's Secretary-General, was amply justified", he told the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies.

"Do we have to accept Mr Solzhenitsyn's verdict that military preparation by the Russians has achieved such a momentum that war is inevitable?" The Chinese thought so too, and had put the date of the next war in Europe in the early 1980s.

Recent concessions by the West had been for the most part one-way. The events in Vietnam and Cambodia and the proposed settlements in Rhodesia and the Middle East were in favour of revolutionary rather than evolutionary change, so too was the "fascionable cult" of Eurocommunism.

"If power continues to direct the affairs of men then the cold hard facts of life are that the Western democracies

have lost chunks of real power and influence", he said.

Nor was the West able to free itself from certain complexes on capitalism, colonialism and individual freedom. "We seem to suffer in relation to communism the politics of anxiety, and in relation to the Third World the politics of guilt. That is no foundation for confidence and defence of our values", he said.

It had been much easier for an agricultural society to recognize the basic values which had to be defended. But in a factory or in building an £80,000 car for an Arab sheikh one might be excused for losing sight of the purpose of creation.

Bari, Italy, Oct 12.—American and other Nato defence ministers, ending two days of talks on nuclear planning, failed to agree today on European deployment of the neutron warhead.

They agreed that the weapon, dubbed "clean" because it kills humans but spares objects, was militarily useful but also politically explosive. Mr Harold Brown, the United States Secretary of Defence, called fears on the warhead "unjustified".

Both Mr Brown and Dr Luns, the Nato Secretary-General, attempted to dispel fears on the danger of the neutron bomb. Dr Luns called it "really an artillery shell".

Spanish union leaders back austerity pact

From Harry Delbelus
Madrid, Oct 12

Spain's biggest trade union, the Communised Workers' Commissions, announced today that it will go along with the economic programme accepted by the main political parties last weekend.

At a press conference in Madrid, Señor Marcelino Camacho, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and other Workers' Commissions leaders called the two-year austerity programme "a valid solution".

The trade union representatives expressed some minor reservations, particularly with regard to wage ceilings and the lifting of restrictions on dismissals of staff under certain conditions. But their reaction was encouraging, for without the co-operation of labour, Spain would be unable to pull out of its economic crisis, in the opinion of most economic experts.

The approval of the Workers' Commissions paves the way for the next round of talks to be held tomorrow when party representatives

meet again at the Prime Minister's Moncloa Palace.

It may be even harder to reach an agreement on the main issue to be discussed in public order, with a proposal that laws affecting human rights should be revised provisionally by decree.

Leaders of the Workers' Commissions said that Spain would need "austerity at the top and moderation at the bottom" in order to survive the economic recession. At the same time, they insisted that the purchasing power of the working class should not diminish. Señor Camacho claimed that the Workers' Commissions had one and a half million members—almost a tenth of the labour force.

He expressed the opinion that Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, had called for a "Moncloa pact" because the future of his Government was in jeopardy. But Señor Camacho believed that any other government which might take its place faced the threat of being replaced by "the next Pinochet".

"German baiting" attack on *Le Monde* in EEC paper

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Oct 12

The postwar reconciliation of the historical enemy between France and Germany is often hailed as one of the EEC's finest achievements. Eyebrows have therefore been raised in Brussels by an attack on *Le Monde* in the latest issue of a monthly magazine published by the European Commission's press and information office in Bonn.

The article, written by Herr Alfred Frisch, a freelance German journalist living in Paris, accuses *Le Monde* of running a Communist-supported campaign "to accustom the French people once again to the spectre of the ugly German". This is seen as part of a longer-range plan to "force (France) on to a neutralist path" and to "break with the Western world".

Herr Frisch also asserts that few people have fully appreciated the alleged transformation of *Le Monde* from being "the mouthpiece of the French Foreign Ministry and of a large part of public opinion" into a left-position, if not left-extremist and nihilistic organ. He does this alleged change from the retirement of the newspaper's founding editor, Mr Hubert Beauve-Mercy.

Two mediators for Dutch political crisis

Strasbourg, Oct 12.—Two veteran politicians appointed as mediators by Queen Juliana in an effort to solve Holland's Government crisis, which has lasted since May, began work today.

Air Maarten Vrolijk, aged 88, and Mr Pieter Verdan, aged 62, both former Cabinet ministers, will attempt to clear the way for the formation of a Cabinet.

Holland has had a caretaker Cabinet led by Mr Joop den Uyl, leader of the Labour Party, since the general election on May 25 when Mr den Uyl's party failed to gain an absolute majority in the 150-seat Parliament.—UPI.

Strasbourg, Oct 12.—The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe today passed a resolution to invite Spain to become its twentieth member.

It was a unanimous decision by the 154-member Assembly, and officials said it was already certain that the council's committee of ministers would formally admit Spain when they meet next on November 24.

Entry to the Council of Europe, members of which must have democratic governments and guarantee basic human rights and freedoms, will give Spain the stamp of political respectability in Europe. It will also set Spain more firmly on the road to EEC membership.

The Assembly's Austrian President, Herr Karl Czerny, said Spain's admission would be "the final funeral for the Franco system".

The resolution, amended only today to include an invitation, was drawn up by the rapporteur of the Assembly's committee on European non-member countries, Mr Paul Channon, a British Conservative MP.

The critics of the project were the same people who were ready to put up with the long, meandering queues of vehicles that would wait for hours to cross the straits by a

without warning during a truce meeting in Pancal on Jolo Island.

Mr Hassan also said that a week before the killing of General Bautista, the army had attacked a rebel-held area, near Pancal, forcing the rebels to withdraw.

In Manila, Mr Carmelo Barbero, Under-Secretary for Defence, said there had been no massacre and accused Mr Hassan of lying.

Mr Barbero accused Mr Hassan of trying to cover up the massacre of General Bautista and his men which he blamed on "these bands in a Middle East country".

This is believed to be a reference to Mr Nur Misuari, head of the MNLF, now based with his staff in Libya.

Meanwhile, hundreds of troops are being flown from Manila to Zamboanga and Jolo in south-west Philippines, to reinforce security forces in the area for a "punitive campaign" against the Sali group of rebels.—AP.

ferry-boat—a service that could barely handle 15,000 cars a day.

Opinion in Istanbul has since been impressively reversed.

The compliment was paid indirectly to the British firm of Freeman Fox and Partners who designed this slim, graceful suspended structure with a main span of 1,175yd. Its gentle curve across the straits gives a 210ft clearance over high water to allow even the world's largest ships to navigate the Bosphorus.

The construction of this bridge, the fourth largest in the world, cost about £30m, two thirds of it being lent by a

multinational consortium which included Britain.

The bridge tolls, which have just given the green light for a costly plan to build a second road bridge and an underwater rail tube to link Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus.

The idea is to alleviate traffic congestion on the first Bosphorus bridge, which was opened in 1973 and was used daily by 80,000 vehicles.

This is expected to grow to 115,000 vehicles a day, the full capacity of the bridge, by 1980-85 years sooner than predicted by the planners.

When construction of the first bridge began earlier this decade, there was an outcry from many people in Istanbul, mainly for aesthetic reasons.

No one, naturally, wanted the skyline of the Bosphorus to be desecrated by a modern utilitarian artefact.

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S Africa bars more Namibia concessions

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Oct 12

There was "not an inch left for negotiation" as far as the future independence of South-West Africa (Namibia) was concerned, a senior government source said in Pretoria today. South Africa had already made all the concessions it was prepared to make during its negotiations with the five-nation "contact group". "We cannot go any further", the source added.

This apparent hardening of the South African line comes at a time when delicate negotiations are about to be resumed. The nationalist South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) is to meet representatives of the five Western powers—Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada—during the next few days to continue discussions on possible compromises.

The South African Government argues that it has already moved far enough in an attempt to satisfy the demands of the Western powers and the United Nations (which has final responsibility for the territory) without being offered any reciprocal concessions.

The source pointed out that South Africa had agreed that South-West Africa should become independent by the end of next year after free elections, and had abandoned its original Bantustan plan for the territory. It had also approved the presence of United Nations observers during the election period.

Finally, South Africa had agreed not to go ahead with its own proposals for independence for South-West Africa based on the Turnhalle constitutional conference.

The Turnhalle conference began its final session in Windhoek today before being wound up. Black and Coloured (mixed race) groups which had been taking part in the

multi-ethnic meeting du

on at the past two years

expected shortly to form it

with the newly created Re

public of Namibia.

The principle obstacle

to progress towards a n

egotiated settlement in Namib

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presence of South Afr

ican troops and police in the

territory.

One possible comprom

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expected to place before

Swapo involved a phased w

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transitional period until in

dependence. The maintenance

law and order during a

period would be entrusted

to the United Nations obs

ervation force.

Concessions at Salt will inflame Congress hawks

From David Cross
Washington, Oct 12

Leaked details on important United States concessions to the Soviet Union in the continuing strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) seem certain to provoke an angry response from Congress.

The Turnhalle conference began its final session in Windhoek today before being wound up. Black and Coloured (mixed race) groups which had been taking part in the

United Nations observers during the election period.

Asked what had induced the

summit—a point of contention between Rhodesia and Zambia—Mr Smith replied: "I am happy to assure you that I was not the initiator of the visit. Beyond that, I believe it would be inappropriate for me to go."

Meanwhile, the military command reported another 10 war deaths and sporadic border attacks from Mozambique and Zambia.

A communiqué said security forces killed six black nationalists and three blacks living with and actively assisting a terrorist gang. The deaths brought guerrilla losses in the five-year war to 3,765 and security force deaths to 430.—Reuters and UPI.

Zambian denial: The Zambian Government denied a report in *The Times* on Monday that Zambia was using Rhodesia as a scapegoat for her economic ills.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the author of the article "must be blind to the problems of southern Africa and in particular to the serious problems created by Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence".

The council said that numerical goals meant only that universities should seek qualified minority applicants.

Quotas, on the other hand, meant that a number of black students will be admitted regardless of their qualifications.

It has been estimated that without "affirmative action" there would be virtually no blacks, American Indians and Hispanic students at medical and law schools because of its competition.

A study released today shows that the number of minority students in colleges and universities went up by 16.8 per cent in the past four years by only 6.3 per cent.

The Carnegie Council said that no one should be admitted to a university who was not white.

There are about 45,000 minority students (blacks, Hispanics, American Indians and Orientals) at American universities compared with 2,400,000

able to do the work. But only a pool of qualified applicants

had been identified, universities should consider the demands of society for black and Hispanic doctors and lawyers as well as the need for a diverse student body.

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Liberals opinion split over race case

Continued from page 1

queuing at midnight for the few places reserved for the public.

Some demonstrators paraded outside wearing "Overthrow Bakke now" placards. The District of Columbia city council had earlier proclaimed this week "Overthrow Bakke week", and there was a march and demonstration against Mr Bakke.

A him of the court's thinking may have been deduced from a separate case in which it suggested that veterans could be singled out for preference in competition for government jobs as long as the purpose was not to discriminate against non-veter

more
cessions

OVERSEAS

Troops on alert in North Yemen capital after assassination of President and his brother

Seirat, Oct 12.—North Yemen's new rulers had ordered paratroops to key points in the capital, Sana, following the assassination of President Ibrahim al-Hamdi.

The state-controlled Sana radio said President Hamdi, who was 34, and his brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Abdallah Muhammad al-Hamdi, had been killed last night by "criminals". It gave no details of the identity or whereabouts of the assassins.

Informers sources in Sana, contacted by telephone from Bahrain, said the new rulers had imposed a blanket of secrecy on the circumstances of the assassination.

Diplomatic sources reported tribal resentment against the President after his Government failed to implement an agreement sponsored by Saudi Arabia intended to redress grievances among some of an estimated 400 tribes. Most are staunchly conservative and opposed to moves towards modernizing the backward country.

But observers here said there were signs that last night's assassination was not merely a tribal affair in a country which controls an important stretch of coastline.

The Sana Government's Marxist neighbours in South Yemen promptly denounced the killings as an imperialist plot to undermine both countries.

The assassinations came at a time when moves towards unity between conservative North Yemen and the Marxist

South Yemen appeared to be gathering pace.

President Salem Robaya Ali of South Yemen visited North Yemen three times this year for the first summit meetings between the two states since they concluded an agreement to work towards unification.

Colonel Hamdi came to power four years after the end of a civil war that lasted for more than seven years.

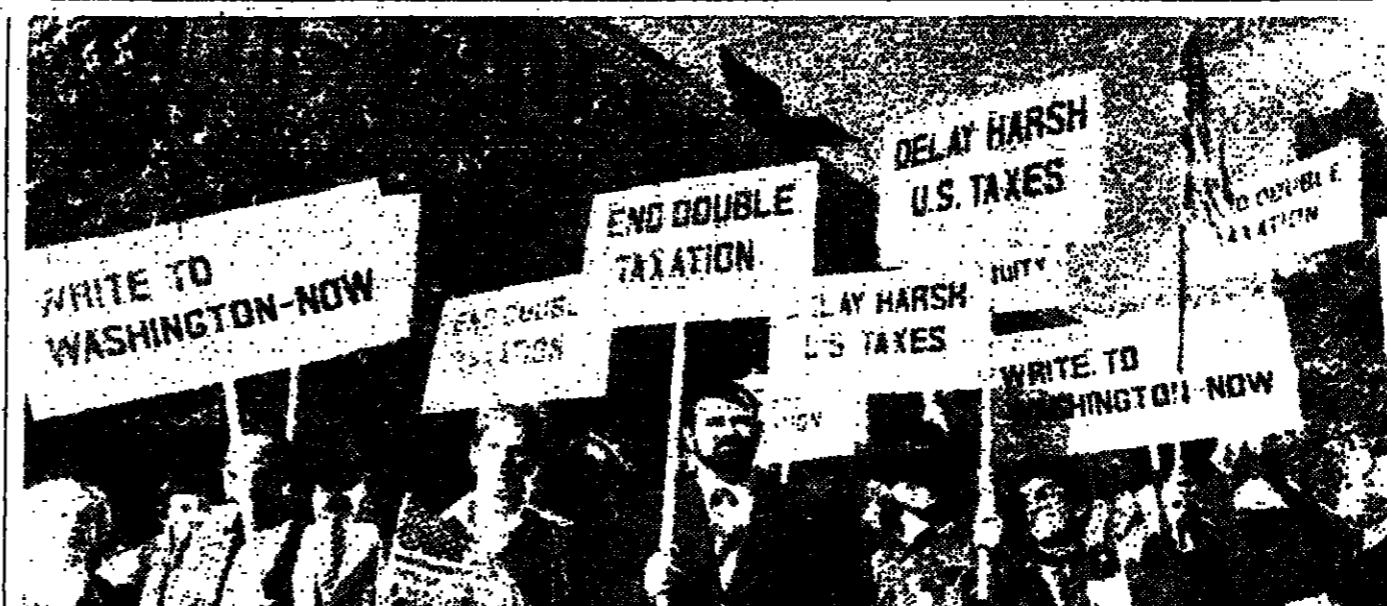
Fought between supporters of the royal family, backed by Saudi Arabia, and the republicans, aided by the Egyptians, it cost some 200,000 lives and caused grave and lasting damage to the country's agriculture-based economy.

At the age of 35, Colonel Hamdi was one of the youngest heads of state in the world. He followed firmly in moderate policies adopted at Addis Ababa in the twentieth century.

Except in the north, where the tribes supported the royal cause during the 1962-70 civil war, he enjoyed considerable popularity among ordinary Yemenis.

However orderly the succession, his death will be a severe blow to the nation's efforts to equip itself for the twentieth century.

Most observers of Yemeni politics in London suspect the northern tribes of being implicated. President Hamdi's Government has long had trouble with these former supporters of the imams, or royal family.



Demonstrators from an organization called Tax Equity for Americans Abroad protest outside the United States Embassy in London yesterday over their alleged unfair taxation.

In brief

Space shuttle's new success

Edwards Air Force Base, California, Oct 12.—Enterprise, America's 75-ton space shuttle, soared in free flight to a perfect landing today after its first brief test without a stabilizing tail cone.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials said they regarded the fourth and toughest flight of the craft as successful, despite some buffeting winds.

Ex-Premier's return

Athens, Oct 12.—Mr Panagiotis Gavalopoulos, aged 75, the former Greek Prime Minister, announced his return to politics after a 10-year absence. He is to stand in the November general election as an independent.

Balloonists fail

Washington, Oct 12.—Two American balloonists—Mr Dewey Reinhard and Mr Charles Stephenson—abandoned their attempt to cross the Atlantic and came down in the sea 50 miles south-east of the Nova Scotia coast.

Extradition demand

Prague, Oct 12.—Czechoslovakia is seeking the extradition of the man and woman who hijacked a Czechoslovak airliner in Frankfurt, and asked for political asylum in West Germany.

Minister dismissed

Brasilia, Oct 12.—President Geisel has dismissed Brazil's Army Minister, General Sylvio Coelho da Costa, for personal reasons, the presidential palace announced.

US accused of 'futile Belgrade propaganda'

Belgrade, Oct 12.—American diplomats have been using the European security conference for "futile propaganda" attacks. Mr Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet delegate, protested at a closed plenary session today. He had injected a discordant note into the debate.

The Belgrade meeting should not be turned into an "arena of psychological warfare", he declared. The nations who signed the final act in Helsinki did not want vital problems listed there distorted.

Mr Vorontsov countered—attacked after seven days of discussion, in which the United States and its Western allies have sought to keep the spotlight on human rights.

He avoided mentioning the United States by name, but Soviet and American officials

said he was clearly alluding to a lengthy catalogue of alleged Soviet block abuses of human rights presented by Mr Arthur Goldberg, the American delegate, and other American speakers.

The Soviet charge was immediately rejected by the American delegation. "We seek no confrontation here and we expect none", they said.

Mr Vorontsov also criticized the linking of trade tariff concessions with political questions "which have nothing to do with trade relations".

He was referring to the 1974 United States Trade Act which barred the granting of most-favoured-nation trading status to countries failing to allow free emigration. The trade act was mainly directed against Soviet restrictions on Jewish emigration.—Reuters.

Mystery lights 'probably sputniks burning up'

Leningrad, Oct 12.—A leading Soviet astronomer said today that the mysterious balls of light sighted over Karelia and Leningrad last month were probably satellites or rocket stages burning up when entering the atmosphere.

Professor Vladimir Krat, director of the Pulkovo astronomical observatory, also debunked the possibility that the phenomena could have been caused by intelligent beings from outer space.

The phenomenon was probably a rocket stage burning up or a cosmic sputnik coming back into the Earth's atmosphere, he said.

Tass reported that on September 1 "a huge star suddenly blazed out of a dark sky, sending shafts of light down to earth" over the city of Petrozavodsk in Karelia.

It spread over the city like a

jellyfish "sending out numerous thin light rays like a downpour of rain". After 10 to 12 minutes, Tass said, the jellyfish turned into a bright red circle and moved on. A similar sighting was made near Leningrad.

Questioned about the Tass report, Professor Krat said sputniks could explode on reentry sometimes, the products of the explosion remaining in the air a long time.

He did not dispute the theory that there could be intelligent life in other solar systems.

However, Mr Yuri Gromov, director of the Petrozavodsk meteorological observatory, was quoted by Tass as saying of the September 20 sighting:

"The meteorological workers of Karelia have never before registered similar phenomena. It remains an enigma what caused this."—UPI.

£42m project to clean up poisoned bay

Tokyo, Oct 12.—A 10-year project costing £42m has started at Minamata, southern Japan, to clean the bay of mercury and prevent the spread of "Minamata disease" which has already caused 203 deaths.

Nets will be fixed at the mouth of the bay to trap mercury-poisoned fish. An area half a mile square is to be cleaned.

Most of the cost will be borne by the Chisso Corporation whose factory dumped industrial wastes containing organic mercury into the bay for more than 20 years.

The disease first came to light in 1955 when children living in Minamata showed signs of paralysis in the arms and legs as if they had contracted polio.—Agence France-Presse.

Amin threat of military action against Kenya

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Oct 12

President Amin of Uganda has threatened to take military action against Kenya in retaliation for "malicious propaganda" by the Kenyan press and radio. He also alleges that the Kenya Government is encouraging subversion against him among the many Ugandan refugees in Kenya.

According to Uganda radio, President Amin said he had restrained his Defence Council from supplying the aircraft and the instructors to train the pilots and engineers of the new squadrons.

Uganda radio said the ceremony was followed by an air exercise on the Uganda-Tanzania border.

He added that this was his last warning to Kenya.

The radio said later that President Amin had today commissioned two new squadrons of MiG17 and MiG21 aircraft. They had been supplied by the Soviet Union to replace aircraft destroyed by Israeli troops in their raid on Entebbe airport last year.

President Amin expressed his gratitude to the Soviet Union for supplying the aircraft and the instructors to train the pilots and engineers of the new squadrons.

Uganda radio said the ceremony was followed by an air exercise on the Uganda-Tanzania border.

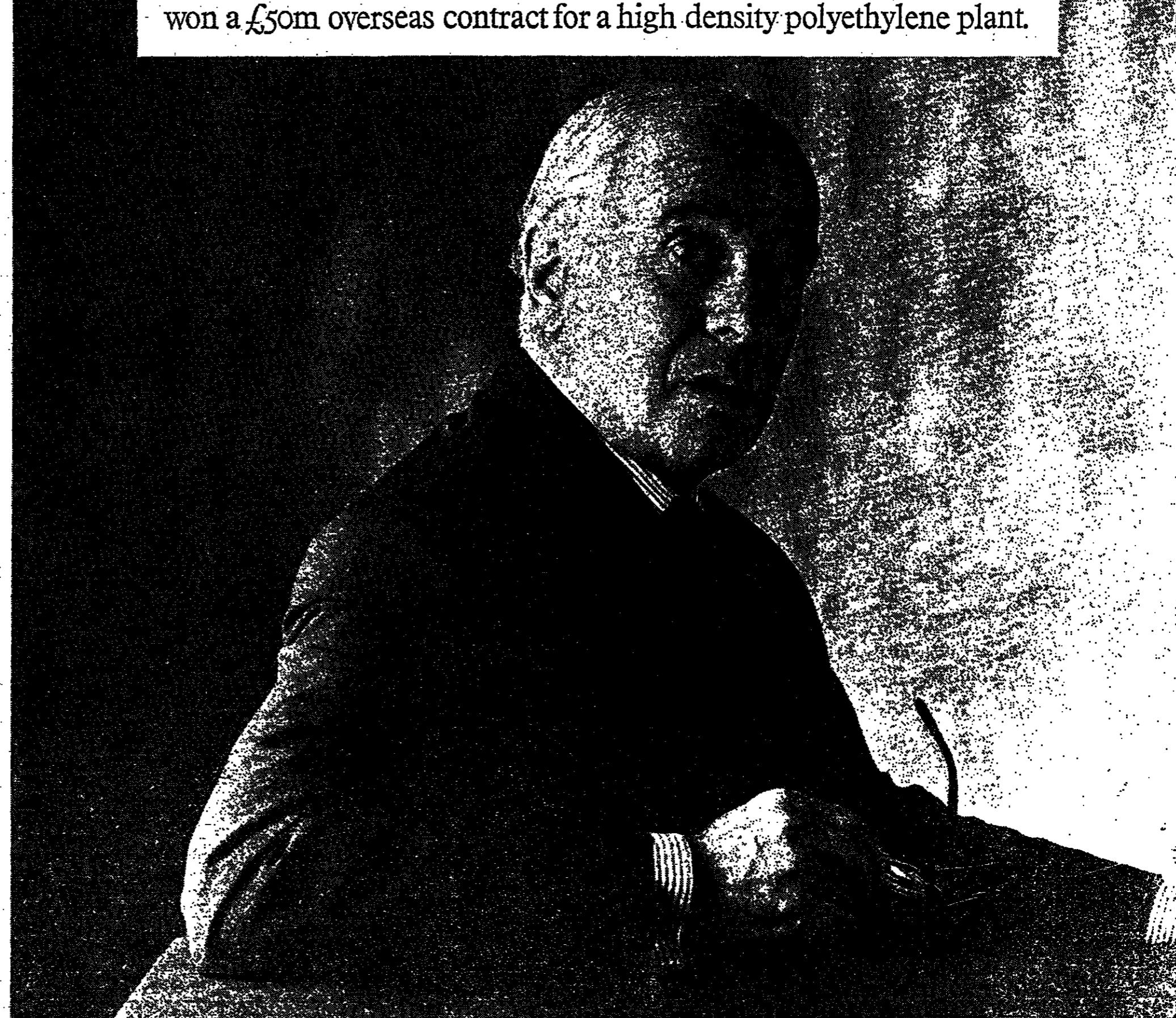
"Landing a large export contract for chemical plant can take a long time. 3 years is not uncommon. So we find it pays to keep ECGD informed of every step right the way through the negotiations.

"This means that they can and do react very quickly when the time comes, without the need for complex briefing.

"It's not 'us-and-them', we work together on a project.

"In fact, if we had an arm's length relationship with ECGD, we just couldn't deal with clients in the way that we have to when facing tough overseas competition. As it is, we're definitely winning."

Mr F.P. Korn OBE is Marketing and Sales Director of Constructors John Brown Ltd, engineering contractors, who recently won a £50m overseas contract for a high density polyethylene plant.



ECGD offers insurance cover for a very wide range of exports, including raw materials, mass-produced and capital goods, services, construction contracts and sales through UK confirming houses, merchants and overseas subsidiaries of UK firms. For certain business ECGD also offers bank guarantees for export finance at favourable rates (to the exporter or his customer); guarantees for pre-shipment finance and performance bonds; and cost escalation cover. Full details from your local ECGD office.

To make an appointment or for information contact the Information Officer, Export Credits Guarantee Department—quoting reference 'TN'—at Glasgow, Belfast, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, Bristol, London West End, Croydon or Tottenham offices; or Joan Swales, Information Section, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, London EC2P 2EL. (Tel: 01-606 6699, Ext. 255).

ECGD

INSURANCE FOR BRITISH EXPORTERS

SPORT

Football

Argentina for Scots next summer, Aberystwyth for some

By Gerald Sinstadt

Wales 0 Scotland 2

A night of perpetual motion and emotion at Anfield ended with Scotland sure of a place in next year's World Cup finals and Wales once more beaten but unbowed. The margin looks comfortable enough on paper, but it was a disputed penalty, adjudged to have been conceded in a moment of aberration, David Jones, which turned the game after 79 minutes. A hand undoubtedly knocked away a high ball. Wales claimed it was a hand, but the French referee was already clearing the way for Masson to score from the spot.

As long as thoughts of how the more sophisticated nations are playing the game could be left to bay, this was an engrossing match. Wholehearted involvement by every man, a challenge for every ball, a counter for every thrust made for an occasion of undiluted excitement and drama.

The opening ceremonies were symbolic. For the latest defeat of 42 musicians of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the bandsmen blew and banged with a will, but mused Scots voices rendered them inaudible. For the first quarter of an hour of the game Wales's footbells seemed destined for a silent lair.

A nervous lunge by Phillips in the first minute gave Scotland a corner. Two more followed quickly. All were smothered rather than controlled by the Welsh defence, which crept up Dalglish, but the shot was blocked. Maccari collected the rebound, but his centre was headed wide by Dalglish. Players chased the ball like a team of handbells seeking a bar of soap in a bath.

Then came the first goals: Joey Jones on Jordan, Phillips on Dalglish. Mr Nutt dealt swiftly with both, establishing a personality that proved to be firm but not fussy. Although there was room to debate a second decision, his control overall was exemplary. A penalty appeal by Dalglish after he had escaped from David Jones in the tenth minute was turned away emphatically but without hisciousness.

With hearts fluttered when they stopped moments later when Dalglish's yards from goal, let the ball slide through his hands. Legs flailed, but there was no positive contact, and the chance slipped away. That marked the first signs of pessimism. Wales and Maccari were adjusting to the pace in midfield and Wales began to move forward.

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	4	3	0	1	6	3	2
Wales	3	1	0	2	3	6	2
Czechoslovakia	3	1	0	2	3	6	2
Slovakia	3	1	0	2	3	6	2

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v Wales.

Group 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v France.

The task facing the Irish was

difficult enough from the outset and had the Bulgarians possessed a midfield player of the quality of Giles, they would have dominated within the first 10 minutes.

IRE: G. P. Jones (Fulham); P. Nutt (Arsenal); D. Jones (Arsenal); G. O'Leary (Arsenal); J. Lawrenson (Liverpool); G. Dalglish (Liverpool); J. Jones (Shrewsbury); R. Davies (L. Huddersfield); G. Maccari (Queens Park Rangers); S. Hetherington (Arsenal); R. Thomas (Dorset County); J. Jones (Luton); D. Jones (West Bromwich Albion); P. Sayer (Cardiff); J. McCreary (Birmingham); P. Farnes (B. Burnley); J. W. Johnson (West Bromwich Albion); M. Nutt (Walsall); N. R. Wurts (France).

Group 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v Spain.

Mr Nutt's frustration came when, two minutes from the end, a couple of hundred spectators rushed onto the pitch thinking that the match was over, but after a brief interval they were cleared without trouble.

Although they took the Bulgarian defence apart, they could not score. A final indignity came when, two minutes from the end, a couple of hundred spectators rushed onto the pitch thinking that the match was over, but after a brief interval they were cleared without trouble.

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Group 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v Spain.

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Group 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v Spain.

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Group 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v Spain.

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Group 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

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Group 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

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Group 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v Spain.

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Group 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

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Group 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v Spain.

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Group 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	4	3	2
France	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Spain	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

To play: November 16, Czechoslovakia v Spain.

The task facing the Irish was

difficult enough from the

THE AVERAGE DRIVER DOES 10000 MILES A YEAR.
 THE AVERAGE VOLVO DRIVER DOES 16000
 COULD THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT?

Volvo have always been ready to support the motor
 Right in the back. Where it counts.

When we designed our seats we worked with doctors
 who measured the activity of the spinal muscles.

This helped us make the first driving seat with real
 effective lumbar support.

But being Volvo we couldn't just sit back and relax. So
 for 1978 we're introducing an even better seat.

It's more contoured and wrap-around with a longer
 cushion that's raised to give better support to the legs.

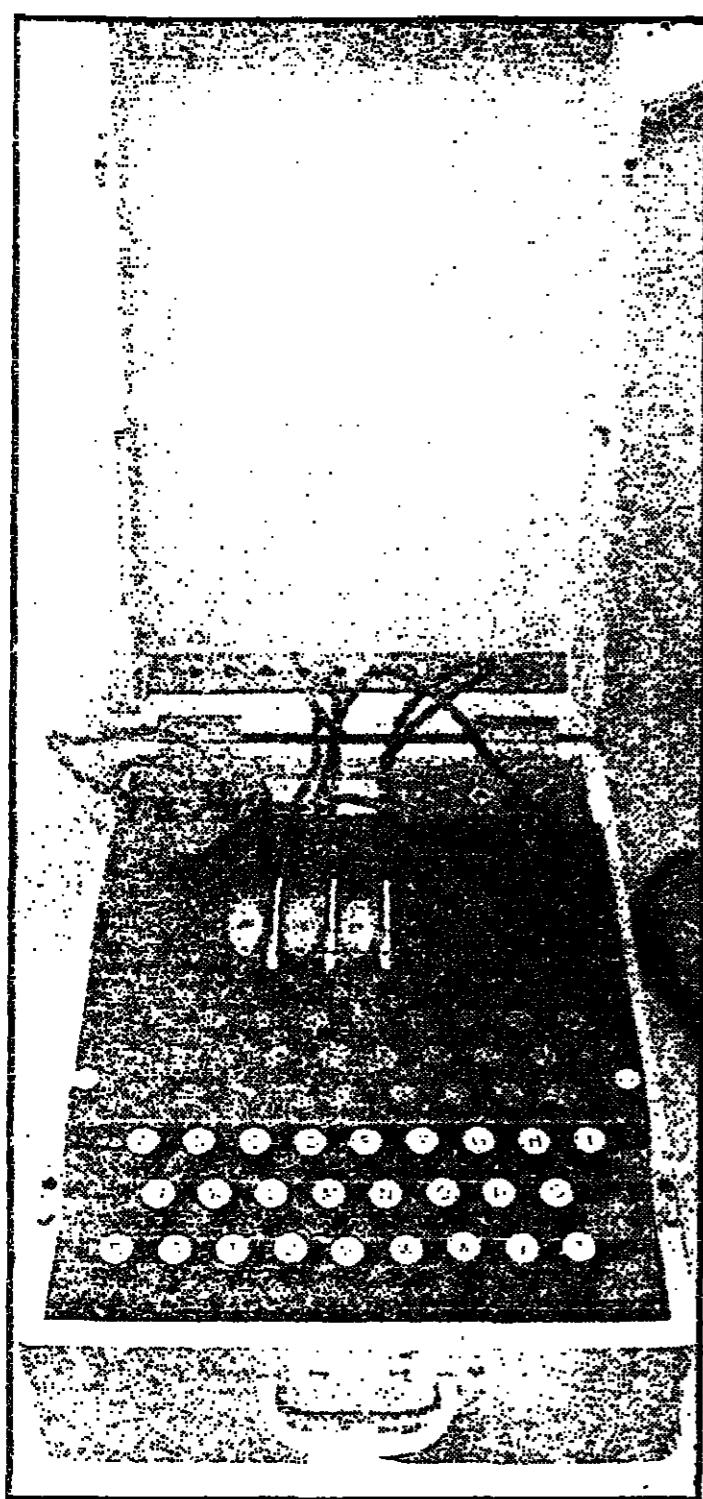
We've improved the cushioning and made the head
 restraints 50% softer. We've even refined the
 lumbar support control.

The way we look at it is this: the more
 heart-ache we have, the less back-ache you have.



IT'S GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME.

Will wartime reputations stand the Enigma test?



The German Enigma machine on show at the British Genius exhibition in Battersea Park, London.

A gold seam of material from the Second World War will be opened up for scholarly prospectors at the Public Record Office in Kew on Monday morning. The deposition of intelligence documents, based on intercepted German messages, will signal the start of an open season on a host of political and military reputations.

The genius of a Churchill, the flair of a Montgomery and the poise of an Alexander may look a good deal less impressive when it is known just how much advance information they possessed about the enemy's intentions.

News of "Ultra", the last great secret of the war which for so long shrouded the breaking of the German Enigma machine by MI6 cryptographers at Bletchley Park, has been trickling out for several years. A number of books have been written around the subject. Some official historians were privy to the secret, others were not. All the unofficial writers laboured under the disadvantage of not having any papers against which to test memory and impression.

In successive tranches over the next year or two, the material that was fed down the line daily from Bletchley to the service intelligence directorates in Whitehall will emerge for public scrutiny. Messages sent direct from Bletchley to commanders in the field, for reasons of brevity, should also appear.

The codebreakers were regularly cracking Enigma from the spring of 1940 using the earliest computers ever to be built, a British "first" concealed from the public until the 1970s.

The first area to be reworked will probably be the Battle of the Atlantic. German naval intelligence was breaking the Royal Navy's code at certain times, just as Bletchley was cracking theirs. It will be an inspired historian who finally sorts out from British and German sources just how much each side knew about the other at any given point during the struggle against the U-boats.

The last war is about to be refought, not by veteran warriors moving pepper pots and matchsticks, representing phantom armies and fleets, across the tables at the "In and Out", but by scholars using the weaponry of the archive.

The result should be revisionist history at its best.

Peter Hennessy

High jinks round the quad, punting on the river, elegance at the May Balls... Is the popular image of Cambridge still a reality? Are its students still an elite, perpetuating privilege from generation to generation? Where does the fabulous wealth of the colleges come from and how is it spent? And how does the city of Cambridge live with its illustrious university? Peter Wilby investigates these questions in a special four-page report in The Times Higher Education Supplement.

Also: Christopher Andrew on the threat to historical research posed by careless and careful "weeding" of government documents.

Available from newsagents every Friday.

THE TIMES
Higher Education
SUPPLEMENT

Why the Russians may choose Turkey as the weak spot in the West's defences

The forgotten land that could become a vital battleground for Nato

Ani, Soviet-Turkish border. Here on the Eastern rim of the Western alliance, beyond the rapid River Arpacay in its deep ravine, lies one of the best illustrations of overkill anywhere. An electric fence, watchtowers, guard dogs and a patchwork of minefields present the stern face of the Soviet Union to a Turkish peasant, his lean goats and the ancient ruined city of Aoi, deserted after an earthquake in 1319. This wild plateau, 4,390 feet above sea level and somewhat to the east of Moscow, might well be described as Nato's most forgotten land.

Forgotten, perhaps, because the main focal point of Western worries over its south-eastern flank, has always been the Dardanelles, which the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) lists together with the Baltic and central Germany as essential to the defence of Europe as a whole. This is why Turkey's 1st Army, with its headquarters at Istanbul and units on both sides of the Straits, is the most assiduously maintained of the country's three main armies, with the biggest single allocation of the country's slender military resources.

Historic Russian ambitions to exert some sort of control over their access to the Black Sea, together with the obvious advantages to the Warsaw Pact of using the Aegean ports of Kavala, Thessaloniki and Alexandroupolis have led to fears for the vulnerability of Greek and Turkish Thrace—where in parts only 12 miles of rolling terrain separate Bulgaria from direct access to the Mediterranean.

Moreover Nato's South East Land Forces commanders at Izmir argue that while Soviet postwar ambitions in central Europe have been largely realized, their interest in the south has deepened. This is partly because of the growth of the Soviet navy, partly because of the reopening of



The arrows show what are thought to be likely lines of any Warsaw Pact assault on Nato's south-eastern flank—in Greek and Turkish Thrace, and into Eastern Turkey, supported by amphibious landings along the Black Sea.

the Suez Canal and, more specifically, because the 1973 Arab oil embargo indicated how easily Western productivity could be crippled by striking at Middle East oilfields.

This has led to increasing concern over Eastern Turkey which sticks out like a sore thumb between Soviet land and air routes to the Gulf. In the unlikely event of war between Nato and the Warsaw Pact, Russian forces would see obvious advantages in striking south, across this great stumbling plain—in preference to the alternative of advancing through Iran—perhaps, even linking with Arab armies to the south.

There is also the obvious advantage of opening up two fronts against Turkey's large but ill-equipped army. An attack into eastern Turkey would not only tie up Turkey's 3rd Army, which is thinly deployed along the 312-mile Soviet border from its headquarters at Erzincan, deep in the Anatolian mountains, but would also probably involve units of the 2nd Army at Konya in the south-east.

The threat in eastern Turkey is presented by 12 Soviet divisions in the Trans-Caucasus, with another six divisions further north acting as reinforcement units. Officers of 3rd Army's 14th Mechanized Brigade at Kars, 30 miles west of here, project a first echelon assault of three Russian motor rifle divisions, with a total of nearly 800 tanks—although it is also true that most of the Soviet units in the Caucasian military districts are only category-3 divisions—maintained in peace-time at only one third of their proper establishment.

(This means they would need time to build up to wartime strength.) Soviet ground forces would be supported by Hind attack helicopters and by fixed-wing aircraft including medium bombers like Badgers, Backfires and Blinders, operating from bases in the Ukraine.

The main anticipated Soviet thrust would be made through the Kars river valley, with two secondary lines of advance. One of these would break towards the south, nearer to Mount Ararat, of biblical fame, whose lofty snow-capped peak can be seen towering above the horizon, 150 miles to the south. The other would move westwards along the Southern shores of the Black Sea, and could be supported by amphibious operations.

"General Winter" is a useful ally for Turkey, with deep snow covering the plateau and temperatures dropping below 30° Centigrade. Moreover, while the plateau itself provides good tank country, the invasion routes into central Turkey lead, after 25 miles, through narrow mountain defiles which favour the defence.

On the other hand again, Turkey's army is not well equipped—and deficiencies are not easily made up by the undeniable toughness of the soldiers.

Meanwhile, Soviet relations in the border are ambivalent. On the one hand, Turkish soldiers, an undying hatred for Russians, whom they regard as their traditional enemies, contrast in the Greeks. Russian hooligans were found in eastern Turkey this year, but not to swim to safety across Arpacay. A Turkish soldier also became something local, if controversial, recently when he crossed the border for a bet and a Kashashnikov rifle, though he managed this self-imprisonment.

On the other hand, Turkish authorities are careful to provoke the Soviet visitors, are allowed to cross the border only on the pre-arranged days, and are not allowed to stay in the country for four years in return for which Turkey would lift its retaliatory ban on United States monitoring stations in the country. But so far only \$175m has been released this year under the Carter administration, with the rest dependent upon further progress towards a solution of the Cyprus problem. Difficulties have arisen over maintenance and spare parts, particularly in relation to the Turkish air force. About 40 per cent of Greek and Turkish aircraft in this south-eastern corner of the alliance date back to the 1950s.

All this underlines the importance of Nato reinforcements in wartime. But there are worries over whether those planned reinforcements will be enough, whether they will arrive in time and whether there are adequate reception facilities for them when they do arrive. There is also a shortage of bilateral defence agreements with neighbouring

Ronald Butt

The Tory hawks will not risk being put to flight

nothing to do with governments how unions and employers sort out their affairs."

But the Conservative Party generally—and not least those who oppose the folly of attempting to control wages by unenforceable statute—have taken the point that it would be folly renewed to try to pass a law against the closed shop which might prove unenforceable, and worse still to threaten such a law now and then back down.

The educational approach, and patient work to harness public opinion to support the prevention of abuses, is obviously the right way. The mood of the Conservative Party was expressed in what was, in conference terms, a brilliant speech by Mr Norman Tebbit, the MP for Chingford and a former trade unionist, who is the popular right of the Tory party. Asserting both his party's dislike of the closed shop and the unions, he said: "I am a hawk, but I am not a kamikaze pilot. Jim is a dove but he's no chicken." That summed it up.

Yesterday at Blackpool, Mr Patrick Jenkins, the Tory shadow social security minister declared a future Conservative government intends to take positive action to help the family. The "family" (rather like the concept of nation and crown) is, in political terms, particularly appealing to Tories.

Quite naturally, this challenge of the family to the state is not one which alarms the Tories: on the contrary. Mr Jenkins did not even fear to say from his party platform: "A loving family is worth more than all the psychiatrists in Britain put together".

Well, most of us know it is—and the happiness of a family depends, more than anything else, on the willingness of a

mother to devote herself to it as a matter of priority. The problems of latchkey children are increasingly a cause for concern. Yet the way that Labour's tax policies have recently worked has become an incentive to the working mother, and it tends to encourage women to go to work by making the family standard of living depend on what they earn.

Labour's tax allowances usually favour the family where both parents work. The woman who works as a full-time mother, it seems, is virtually deemed not to be an equal worker. Mr Jenkins proposes to redress the balance by child benefits and, perhaps, tax credits. Equal opportunities for the full-time mother is a concept which will echo the common sense of many ordinary people in the country. I do not know what the Equal Opportunities Commission will make of it. But it could even be quite useful at a time of high industrial unemployment if it helps more women to stay at home—quite apart from its value to human happiness.

Other words heard at Blackpool which it would be improper to mention at a Labour conference are "overmanning" and "productivity". They are, by common consent in daily conversation, at the root of many of our national difficulties. And a national debate hinged on these problems at the Tory conference, which were the

theme of much of Sir Keith Joseph's speech on Tuesday. But it is impossible to imagine the Labour conference arranging a debate to discuss overmanning or productivity as one on the family.

Those who carry to the Labour conference the voting cards which have the big figures on them—and who therefore have the weight and the purses on which Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey depend—are not exactly eager to talk about this subject.

The Labour Party finds it difficult to believe this, but when it comes to open discussion—despite the peculiar pre-dilection of Tory management for "overblown" conference motions—it is actually the Tory conference which is willing to talk the same language about the same subjects as the man and the woman in the street, even when these subjects are too delicate for Labour tongues and ears.

This is Tory week, but the following postscript on the Liberals who have held our Government in their hands is irresistible. It is a breathtaking revelation by Mr David Steel which ought not to be missed.

In last Sunday's *World at One* radio programme, Mr Steel was questioned about the Government's policy of putting pressure on firms who break its wishes by taking away export assistance, and so on. Mr Steel

replied that the Government forced to do this because it lacked a proper statutory policy. What he objected in his was that many Conservative trade union leaders criticized the use of arbitrary powers when they had the Government's proper statutory powers and a "frame of law". That was why Government was "forced" to do what it was doing.

Mr Steel said: "I defend use of arbitrary powers, though I don't like it" and did so because the Government had not got the statutory powers advocated by the Liberals.

There, at last, we have a definitive statement of Liberalism today. What government cannot get parliamentary sanction to enforce policy legally by statute, it do so by "arbitrary" means of its own say-so if the like approve. *Quod principi liber legis vigorem* pleases the prince has the law of law—but for "prince" substitute "Liberals", when would put into the Latin but the fact that, though I like that they decline, I am uncertain about their declining.

Oh, shades of H. H. Asquith, Gladstone and W. E. Gladstone! I don't mind sharing the sentence, "Asquith and Mr George, what dreadful men do you plan for your success but not your nature?"

My spies (mostly early morning joggers and one of doglovers) tell me that Barnet Council is now waiting to see if any local resident will come to protest the Council's new by-laws. The dumb creature is reported sneaked out early in the morning and very late at night, such deprivation is surely original "dog's life".

Multilingual warning

The new Marks and Spencer store, which has just opened the Kensington hotel, is equipped with words to shoplifters and pickpockets in Arabic and Farsi (Persian) as well as English, German and French.

The signs, carefully worded after consultation with appropriate embassies, have been posted because these languages spoken by the immigrants who most often commit incomprehension or misunderstanding when the dogs are being taken a bit short as well.

Thoughtfully, guide dogs for the blind have been exempted but not the Borough Council's very own guard dog, an affectionate Afghan called Butch. Butch lives in the middle of Thompson Park, one of the green oases to which the bus applies, where he has a delightfully kennel in the park nursery headquarters which happen to be in the almost geographical centre of the Park.

Blue, but not a four-letter word

Thatcher-watchers, myself included, spent the early hours of yesterday morning with eyes clamped on the Tory Number One, a dazzling spectacle in her apple-green, free-flowing gown. It was not, however, for sexual satisfaction that we kept our midnight vigil. It was to see how the party leader would react to *The Blue Revue*, an amateur satirical show with Central Office men in its cast of nine. It is the talk of Blackpool.

The only time Mrs Thatcher looked a trifle pained was when a toy bear intervened in an Andy Pandy skit. "We didn't think we would see Teddy at Blackpool this year. He's been sulking and won't play ball," trilled Sally Neubert, wife of the member for Havering, Romford. Some of the blue jokes (blue in sexual and not political terms) left her looking inscrutable.

The rest delighted her. She beamed broadly at an impersonation of her which produced the couplet: "I should like to say in parenthesis, we could do with more Reg Prentices."

Educational

There has been much else to laugh at in Blackpool this week. I stumbled across Rhodes Boyson, education whiz-kid and stand-up comedian manqué, at machine gun speed at an audience of young Tory

Diamonds that pay the rental

My goodness, those diamonds are lovely. Mae West (in *Diamond Lil*): "Goodness had nothing whatever to do with it." We know that they are a girl's best friend, and that second hand diamonds are better than no diamonds at all; but are diamonds really for ever?

George Blaize, chief analyst and market commentator of the London office of the Welsh stockbrokers, Lyddon and Co., was asked by a client to make an appraisal of the investment potential of diamonds. He came to the conclusion that the small, colourful stones dedicated to the purity of woman and the greed of man were intrinsically useless after all.

More than four-fifths of the world's natural diamond production are used by industry. The Soviet Union exports all its gem diamonds, but not a single carat of industrial diamonds is allowed to leave.

Mr Blaize's appraisal grew and grew into a large and brilliantly illustrated book that tells all that one could ever want to know about the hard, shiny, desirable rocks. It is published today by Paddington Press at the modest when telling about diamonds) price of £10.95. And besides, like the song says, "there may come a time when a lass needs a lawyer ..."

In the Brunswick Shopping Centre, near this office, I have spotted a shop called Pus. I cannot bring myself to look in the windows.

"To be frank, I'd welcome the Musicians' Union version of The Hymn,"



Convivial lobbying

Reggie Maudling has had his troubles recently, but he remains one of the most congenial of Members of Parliament. His latest fit of congeniality is to invite his constituents to a public meeting in a pub called the Salutation in Barnet High Street on Monday week.

The organizers describe it as a "first ever political event".

Butch, but no Sundance

The local authorities in Barnet have recently passed two by-laws which ban dogs from central parks (I am trying to make it sound like New York) in the town. The new regulations are causing dog owners great distress. (I rather suspect the dogs are being taken a bit short as well).

Thoughtfully, guide dogs for the blind have been exempted but not the Borough Council's very own guard dog, an affectionate Afghan called Butch. Butch lives in the middle of Thompson Park, one of the green oases to which the bus applies, where he has a delightfully kennel in the park nursery headquarters which happen to be in the almost geographical centre of the Park.



MR HEATH'S EUROPEAN SURVEY

states which could have problems in the European Community. Meanwhile, the British relations are ambiguous. On the one hand, the British are in a position to be seen as a contrast to the Russian influence. On the other hand, the UK has come into Europe to swim to safety. A few days ago, if confronted by a question from a foreigner for a better explanation, Mr Heath said: "Because I am a Conservative, I am not yet prepared to say that the UK should or should not be part of the Community. That is for the European Parliament to decide."

On the other hand, the UK's political and institutional authorities are sending visitors to the border only to the Community's problems, though that is not quite how it has been taken by other European governments. Clearly it will be some time yet before the Labour Party can make itself think in wholeheartedly European terms. Our partners would expect a more positive and constructive approach from a Conservative government; and it would be reasonable for the Conservative Party still to look for guidance on this issue to Mr Heath, whose historic role it was to lead Britain into the Community.

Alas, Mr Heath's admirers are likely to be disappointed. His lecture is little more than a sensible survey of the current problems facing the Community. He describes well, but when it comes to prescription he retreats to extreme generality, even platitudes.

Mr Heath is certainly right to emphasize the positive value of the Community as a community, and to try to break away from the essentially negative, "Gaulist" consensus about Britain's role in which seems unhappily to be emerging in both major parties. Yet one might have hoped that a man with his reputation as a European statesman would have offered a clearer vision of just how the Community could develop over the next five or ten years for

Henry S. Blair

Defence Correspondent

MIDDLE-INCOME LITIGANTS

The financial inability of the majority of the population to afford litigation in the civil courts, even where the claim is well-founded and likely to be successful, has for some years been a matter of public scandal. Those who are very rich can, of course, afford to take a case to court, or defend one, out of their own resources. Those who are poor can call on the legal aid scheme to finance their litigation. Legal aid was originally envisaged as covering about 80 per cent of the population. The latest figures, according to Mr Richard Deaby, the President of the Law Society, show that just under one quarter is now eligible for it. Effectively, therefore, well over half the people of England and Wales cannot afford to litigate, irrespective of the worth of their case.

There has been growing pressure for a "contingency fee" system which would allow people to be financed in their claims, subject to their repaying the financier a percentage of whatever damages they are awarded by a court or receive in settlement, with nothing being paid in legal fees if nothing is recovered. Up to recently, however, most

Education in Ulster

From Mr Henry S. Blair
Sir, Your Education Correspondent was wise to doubt the claim that there has been no major adverse reaction to Lord Melchett's plans for comprehensive reorganisation in Northern Ireland.

On the contrary, over the past twelve months the province has engaged in what the Minister himself has described as "the most intense and extensive debate on secondary education that has ever taken place anywhere in the United Kingdom". The clear outcome of that debate was the overwhelming of all rejection of any suggestion that all our secondary schools should be reorganised as "comprehensives". Nothing in the Minister's statement of June 15 has altered the attitude of the Ulster people on this fundamental point.

It is true that the opening and closing paragraphs of that statement were couched in reasonable terms. The assurances, all of which your correspondent referred to were generally welcomed that reform would proceed by evolution, that local opinion would be respected and that account would be taken of the investigations of the working parties newly set up. If such assurances, however, were meant to smooth the way to a universal system of comprehensive schools and the institution of separate sixth form provision, they will not succeed. Such goals are no more acceptable now than they were before the statement was issued.

Within the province, exemplified in our own borough, what might truthfully be described as a comprehensive system has been emerging over the past decade or more. Here secondary schools of different kinds co-exist to serve, from their complementary strengths and accumulated expertise, the needs and interests of all our pupils. This represents a development which is natural to the soul of Ulster, is understood and supported by our people, and is capable of continued evolution to meet the demands of the future.

The recently canvassed opinion of teachers and parents who have experience of comprehensive schools across the Irish Sea provides a timely warning against introducing similar arrangements here.

Similarly, the dismantling of our present sixth forms and their total incorporation in a system of tertiary colleges would be as unwise as it is unwarranted. A solution devised to meet the failure or deficiencies of many comprehensive schools in Great Britain is not required here.

In fine, there is a substantial body of opinion which remains totally and uniformly opposed to a universal system of comprehensive schools and the institution of separate colleges as the sole provision for our sixth forms. The Minister and his Department should be under no illusion that the battle is over. It could well be just beginning.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY S. BLAIR
Chairman of the Board of Governors, Bangor Grammar School, Bangor, County Down.
October 7.

Discrimination by age

From Miss K. Gibberd
Sir, "Having just turned 70" writes Mr J. Stewart Cook (October 6), "I am against the prevailing age discrimination on all sides". Having myself recently turned 80, I sympathise with him wholeheartedly and applaud his spirit.

So many elderly people conform to what is expected of them, and who shall blame them? Have not all recipients of paternalism been tempted to do the same? I can remember the obsequious poor.

However, things are looking up.

People are beginning to listen (although they still do not believe it), when we say that we are all as different from one another as we ever were. A few even agree that physical comforts can be too high a price to pay for segregation. Most encouraging of all, local authorities

Defecting from Labour

From Mr M. B. Forman
Sir, I am grateful to Bernard Levin for, predictably, explaining to us all why Mr Prentice is such an estimable fellow (The Times, October 11) but I am afraid his explanations will cut little ice with the 22,205 voters of Newham North East who thought they were for Labour in the last election when they voted for him, and no amount of cloudy words about "freedom" or "Marxism" can get round a few simple facts about Mr Prentice's ethical position.

When he offered himself to the electorate of Newham North East in October 1974, Mr Prentice said he accepted the constitution of the Labour Party, supported its defined purposes and advocated support for the policy programme then being pursued by the party for the approval of the electorate. That, and no other reason, is why 22,205 people voted for him.

Almost his only specific prescription, again a predictable one, is that "the Community must adhere to its plan to hold direct elections in the early summer of 1978". Also he comes out firmly against the "first-past-the-post" system for these elections, which until now has been favoured by the Conservative leadership and the majority of Conservative MPs. He does so not because of the difficulty of drawing constituency boundaries in the short time left, but on principle: "no one can believe" that the rest of the Community will adopt that system when it comes to decide on a uniform arrangement, and Britain is likely to have more influence on the final decision.

"If we have already moved part of the way towards the general principles already adopted by the other members". In other words, our views on the type of proportional system to be adopted eventually are more likely to be taken seriously if we show willingness to try out a proportional system now—just as our views on reform of the common agricultural policy might be taken more seriously if we did not always appear to be looking for ways of opting out of the agricultural common market altogether. This is a good point, and one which MPs of all parties should seriously consider.

That is the kernel of the whole problem. Sir, I am grateful to Mr Prentice for his continued membership of the Labour Party intolerable for him, in itself an unexceptional event. But not a bit of it, apparently: Mr Prentice clearly stated at the weekend: "my views have not changed" (since 1974). In other words, Mr Prentice thinks now as he did in 1974 when he allowed the electorate to believe he fully supported the constitution, purposes and programme of the Labour Party when, in fact, by his own confession, he did not.

That betokens a standard of ethics which is, to say the least, abysmal, and if Mr Prentice is typical of the professional "moderates" who now infest our political life, it would go a long way towards explaining why so many people are cynical and apathetic about political and political issues. And if I can distract Mr Levin for a moment from his preoccupation with boiling ice and Paul Johnson's rediscovery of his bourgeois origins that is a disease from which democracy is most likely to succumb.

Yours sincerely,
T. LITTERICK,
House of Commons.
October 11.

Labour and the EEC

From Mr Bryan Gould, MP for Southwark, Tulse (Labour)

Sir, Your leading article of October 8 states that the Labour Conference "decisively rejected" a motion calling for our withdrawal from the EEC. Not only is this inaccurate (the motion was remitted for further consideration to the National Executive Committee) but it misrepresents the position which the Labour Party has now adopted on the Common Market.

The combined effect of the NEC's statement and the Prime Minister's letter, both of which were endorsed by the Conference, is to unite the Party in opposition to further moves towards European union and in seeking fundamental changes which are needed to mitigate the damage we have suffered as a consequence of membership. We who have always opposed Common Market membership welcomed the Prime Minister's letter in particular because we felt that it accepted much of the analysis which we have advanced.

It is true that the Prime Minister asked in his letter for an acceptance of the fact that we are in the Common Market for good. The effect of remitting the motion which called for withdrawal is that Conference has reserved its position on this issue, recognizing that withdrawal is not on the current political agenda but that the option is one which can be reopened at any time by the British people, as long as they remain free and independent. That majority of the people of this country who are now opposed, according to opinion polls, to Common Market membership will wish to wait to see the outcome of the Prime Minister's efforts to secure fundamental change before finally making up their minds.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN GOULD,
House of Commons.
October 11.

we find it is much cheaper to give us some transport and home help than to put up special buildings to accommodate us in bulk.

The most intractable problem of all is still a farce. How for example can you explain that if you want to continue to be a useful citizen, as both Mr Cook and I do, knitting blanket squares or addressing envelopes is not necessarily the answer? How can you, with becoming modesty, explain that however pleasant it may be to be told that you do not "look your age" you would rather be admired for having learned something about life—or at least be sought after for some information about old age as actually experienced.

It seems that a successful old age means a continuation of middle age, instead of a new and interesting phase. I am happy to report, however, that in my own locality old people are continuing to use the Age Centre to help train volunteers who want to learn about old age. Very logical, but quite unusual.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN GIBBERD,
Kent's Field, Southgate or Lewes, Sussex.

Increasing rail fares

From Mr A. J. Pertie
Sir, Is it not almost insulting on the part of British Rail even to mention fare increases—especially to commuters such as we who have little choice—after a House of Commons Select Committee have brought to light gross overcharging by BR, and made it plain that removal of this will obviate the need for fare increases for some time; or even make possible some reductions in fares?

Let us hear of some surplus staff reductions before there is any mention of fare increases!

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A. J. PERTIE,
150 Palace View,
Bromley,
Kent.
October 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Productivity of British industry

From Mr M. B. Forman

Sir, In his letter of October 7, Mr Vincent, perhaps, should not be taken too seriously when he argues that high productivity is good for some but not for all. But he raises issues that deserve comment.

He starts by confusing profit with private gain and cites "individual capitalists" who prosper by sackings their employees and installing machinery instead. The number of such people must be small and declining. Their existence may excite the indignation of the egalitarian but, in terms of maintaining high employment in the public sector, it can hardly be important.

The significant factor is the corporate profit earned by productive enterprises. This is a vital source of investment, which can provide employment, and of revenue to pay for public services and to support the nationalized industries.

Unemployment is a blight on any society. Mr Vincent contends that in Eastern Europe unemployment is illegal and non-existent. He ignores that communism holds the cure for unemployment in Britain. But he does not specify the price of the alleged "cure" and productivity. What happens, once such guarantees are introduced, is that the onus of paying for temporary unemployment, and of creating new and payable jobs, is shifted from the community as a whole to the individual—or linked—productive enterprises.

Once such guarantees are introduced, the most successful capitalist can no longer be the person, as he sometimes is today, who unloads the maximum amount of redundant labour on to the shoulders of the rest of the taxpayers. Of course, it may be objected that such guarantees must reduce enterprise profits—by shifting value added out of profits and into earnings support payments.

Furthermore, and despite the limited bonanza afforded by North Sea oil, any implication that Britain has the resources to operate as a sieve economy would be futile. The world does not owe us a living and we have to earn it for ourselves by exporting and importing. To do this we have to increase our productivity to be competitive.

The responsibility for this cannot be hived off to the capitalists, the bosses, the Government or anyone else. It belongs to us all and specially to all of us who work in industry. We make up the core of the producers and a large proportion of consumers. It rests largely with the industrial workforce, managers and all other workers together, to decide what standard of life we shall have in Britain—whether penury and unemployment, or prosperity and the prospect of more employment.

Yours faithfully,
M. B. FORMAN,
Director of Personnel and Organization,
Tube Investments Ltd,
T1 House,
Five Ways, Birmingham.
October 12.

From Mr Thomas De Geir

Sir, Could you explain to this humble Leyland production worker what exactly am I to derive from the recent articles on productivity by your distinguished Editor, William Rees-Mogg, and also correspondence from eminent so-called experts (Letters, October 10)

The reason for my perplexity is that in your highly esteemed newspaper's issue of the same date, there is notice of a pamphlet published by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. That publication in my opinion has got to the kernel of the whole problem and is the opposite of what your Editor and the "experts" are saying.

My own observations of lost productivity at this particular plant are far outwards any arithmetical reduction in profits.

Another committee which urged reform and has been similarly treated is the Faulks Committee which in March, 1975, recommended (with a draft Bill) reform of the law of defamation.

If the Government intentions to delay action on these matters are correctly reported, it is very much to be regretted and in the light of recent experience makes a grim contrast with the speed with which restrictions on freedom of information can be passed into law.

Yours faithfully,

HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
Chairman, The Press Council,
1 Salisbury Square, EC4.

October 11.

From Mr Ambrose Appelbe

Sir, Revolutionary Russia introduced divorce by post and shocked the English. Now it is frequent practice in this country; but, unlike Russia, the divorcee is not even sent a divorce certificate.

There are many divorcees at large who do not know that they have been divorced; and the matter arises only when a decree absolute is required, for instance, to renew a passport: it may take some 10 days after attendance at the Divorce Registry before a certificate can be obtained.

In many cases it means that the searcher will have to instruct a solicitor often at the expense of the State to do this work: it would be so much easier if Mother State sent out a certificate immediately after the divorce through her free post.

Yours hopefully,

AMBROSE APPELBE,
Elms,
Fitzroy Park, N6.

October 11.

From Mr Terry Parry

Sir, Your Political Editor, David Wood, in an article in *The Times* of Monday, October 10, 1977, entitled "Conservative plan for averting clash over closed shops" made the remarkable statement that "the Scarman report, which said that a majority of Grunwick workers who wanted exemption should be obliged to join a union",

is completely endorse the concept of cost reduction, rather than the forever ongoing confrontation of manning level reduction (the current obsession at this Leyland plant) which is causing the anguish at present prevailing at all British Leyland plants.

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS DE GEIR,
9 Moffat Road,
Ainsfield, Liverpool
October 11.

From Mr Ian Rowland-Hill

and others
Sir, The Radio and Television Safeguards Committee is reported as saying that if the BBC and the system of public service broadcasting it represents is to survive, then the Government must give it the money necessary to do so. (See *The Times*, October 6, page 2.)

It is not the Government who gives the BBC its money: it is the licenceholder. All the Government does is to tell him how much he shall give, usually without troubling to ask him his opinion of the deal.

It is said that the British广播er receives the best broadcasting to be had anywhere in the world. One can argue that, but the small group of licenceholders signing themselves below is in no doubt whatever that by any reckoning we get a very fine produce indeed for which even now we pay less than any other country in Europe. This arrangement, as it appears, is not on the surface, seems rapidly to be breaking the producer and threatening our supplies.

To avoid this we would, for ourselves, be perfectly willing to see the licence fee raised by what? 25 per cent. Why not? Even a raise of that order would make it

more than moderate by European standards. But it would reflect the EEC.

Your readers may object that we are not impartial since we might hope to see an increase in the licence reflected in an increase in contributors' fees from which, in our other manifestation as members of the Radiowriters Association of this society, we would benefit. We certainly hope we would: paid contributors are very nearly as derisory as the licence.

We understand of course that our proposal would fall outside the limits of the present prices policy.

So, we suggest, does £10 on the road fund, but who amongst our lords and governors has been heard to raise the faintest bleat at that?

Yours faithfully,

IAN ROWLAND-HILL,
Secretary,
IAN RODGER,
Chairman,
PAULINE SPENDER,
DAVID CAMPION,
FREDERICK BRADNUM,
JACK SINGLETON,
DAVID WADE,
DOROTHY EDWARDS,
PETER CATOR,
ROBERT WALES,
Executive Committee of the Radiowriters Association,
The Society of Authors,
84 Drayton Gardens, SW10.

October 11.

From Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge (Conservative)

Sir, I am sorry that my colleague Mr Temple-Morris (letter, October 10) and the Bow Group appear to make so little provision for a continuation of the hereditary element for a Tory to ignore the hereditary principle is surely Hamlet without the Prince. The advantages of the hereditary peers may easily be seen in the following:

Yours truly,

MARGARET RUTHERFORD,
Milims,</

NEW BOOKS

Great radical

Milton and the English Revolution, by Christopher Hill (Faber, £12.50)

Christopher Hill's confrontation with John Milton has been long awaited. For over three decades Dr. Hill has lectured on 17th century history at Balliol College, Oxford, where he is now (as Master) and his many studies of the Puritan background of the English Civil War, including the classic *Intellectual Origins of the English Revolution* (1965), have established him as one of the familiar giants of modern historical writing, known equally for his broad range of views on economics, and his subtle appreciation of religious and spiritual forces. Though he has written outstandingly on Cromwell, on Marvell, and most recently on Gerrard Winstanley, he has not until now greatest republican poet at length, though Milton's shadow falls everywhere across his previous work.

The new book turns out to be a massive, leisurely excursion through the highways and byways (so to speak) of Milton's political and religious thought, which reminded me at times of de Quincey's "slow planetary wheelings". In the circumstances, it is perhaps most remarkable for the tentativeness, the admiring diffidence of its conclusions. Dr. Hill writes towards the end of his quarter-million words:

Milton is elusive, subtle, devious: he cannot be pinned down to any easy formula—Puritan, humanist, radical, etc. (Oliver Cromwell, too, he manifestly had some strong convictions very pertinent to us; but around them he is a subtle penumbra . . . he is in fact very various.

Yet at the outset Hill's approach to Milton is characteristically direct, ideologically defined, without literary frills. It grows from his previous work, *The World Turned Upside Down* (1972), a book which helped to put on the academic map the jungle of radical, communist and millenarian theologies that emerged from the extreme left-wings of the Parliamentarians. Hill christens this group of Ranters, Seekers, Levellers and Fifth Monarchs the "third culture", as opposed to the Cavalier and Puritan cultures. The central thesis of his book is that Milton was in "permanent dialogue" with these platonian-radical thinkers of the third culture, and that his heresies, his hidden libertinism, most of the dynamic aspects of his Puritan orthodoxy, and much of the emotional power of his poetry, springs from this dialogue with the extreme left.

As the study develops, Hill is led to put his greatest emphasis on the increasingly radical nature of Milton's prose pamphlets of the 1640s and 1650s. These begin with the attack on the Laudian prelates ("the tyranny of Spainish bishops"). Hill is a devotee of Miltonic humour, and once even calls him "jovial": they continue with the classic defences of Free Press and Divorce, and flower in the revolutionary apologetics, *Pro Populo Anglicano Defensio* (1651), and *The Ready and Easy Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth*—this last written with extraordinary, almost dandystical, courage on the very eve of Charles II's restoration and the

hanging and quartering of the regicides.

Milton's (then) unpublished commonplace book of heretical speculations—*De Doctrina Christiana* receives correspondingly lavish attention. Hill's lesser-known views (views that would have appalled C. S. Lewis) on such things as anti-Trinitarianism, polygamy, moralism or "soul-sleeping", the Second Coming, and what we may call the pre-lapsarian Facts of Life.

There can be no question of Hill's mastery of radical sources, the gift of expounding them (even the chilly sources of mortalism) sent me bounding back through *Paradise Lost*, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, and *The Witch of Atlas*—see stanzas 70-72). But the exact meaning of this "dialogue" is clearly critical to the whole argument. In fact it seems to relate closely to that old friend of literary-criticism, the "determinist" by William Empson (*Milton's God*, 1956). Ambiguity: "in the cunning suspension of choice between a multiplicity of poetic meanings: or here, politically, between a multiplicity of possible radicalisms. It does not, on the other hand, have to mean that Milton has actually talked with, let alone agreed with, any particular Ranter, Digger, or Leveller. But it must imply, historically, that he has profoundly come to terms with their views, and admitted to living and writing in the same world, a world turned upside down.

On the whole Dr. Hill does succeed in making this position convincing and vividly revealing, if not logically unassimilable. (It worried me that Milton could also be said to be "in dialogue" with the Right: *Paradise Lost* being surely the object of calculated disengagement. As they said in 1940, "wizard prang"!)

But these embitterments are unfair to Mr. Deighton, who has written a serious and sensible book. He has long been an amateur of the art war in the first and best sense of that word. As a novelist he has Kipling's obsession with the way things work—and Kipling's quick eye for the quiddities of human behaviour. The Battle of Britain is set out for us by an imaginative mind for which crankshafts speak as eloquently as the cries of "Angels One Five".

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A look at life in three very different branches of soldiering—a largely typical regiment, the least typical, and the ambulance service

Practised at survival

by John Chartres

When the Queen presented a new guidon to the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry at Belle Vue, Manchester, in 1951, she mentioned the "vicissitudes" the regiment had passed through since a previous ceremony conducted by her great-grandfather 52 years earlier.

Neither she nor the members of the regiment (who put on a spectacular parade and a high-speed drive past before an audience of 20,000) knew then that more vicissitudes, perhaps the most trying of all in nearly 200 years of history, were still to come.

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, now a 380-strong "general reserve" infantry battalion of the T.A.V.R., is typical of the modern reserve army in many ways; exceptional in some others, particularly

if a study is made of its history, its resilience to front change and constant ability to refuse to accept defeat. After 18 years between successive groups of politicians who at times seem bent on destroying it, the T.A.V.R. is the only T.A.V.R. formation to have survived all the successive reorganizations of the different military roles in 1939 when it formed the nucleus of two medium artillery regiments which served in Italy and north-west Europe.

When the TA was reformed in 1947 the regiment was equipped with self-propelled anti-tank guns as part of the Royal Armoured Corps; in 1956 it became a reconnaissance regiment with armoured cars (thereby resuming its nearest thing possible to its original cavalry role); in 1967 it amalgamated briefly with the 40th-41st Royal Tank Regiment; in 1969

was reduced to a cadre of just eight officers and men; and in 1971 it became a full regiment again in the Home Defence infantry role.

Much argument goes on about the value of lightly equipped general reserve infantry battalions such as the DLOY in an age of technological warfare, and retired officers who remember the heady dash days of the armoured cars are apt to wag their heads over the port at reunion dinners and yearn for what is called a "re-role".

Many of those who serve in the regiment now (and it is perhaps significant that in an anti-militarist period it is almost fully recruited with soldiers and NCOs but short of officers) seem to have no such doubts.

Its role in the unhappy event of another war is to survive somewhere underground, and re-emergence after bombs have dropped as perhaps one of the few organized, disciplined bodies in the country capable of restoring some sort of order out of the holocaust.

The methods of training and general atmosphere of the regiment are markedly different from the days of the 1950s and 1960s when TA units simply strived to be as good as, if not better than, their exact counterparts in the regular Army.

The emphasis of training now is on the individual skills of riflemen and junior NCOs with simple weapons and tools for survival. At every stage from recruit to promotion to senior NCO rank, soldiers have to take courses and pass examinations set by the regular Army. Because of this the regiment is seldom together as one body, even at annual camp; more responsibility rests with corporals and sergeants, less influence can be exerted by commissioned officers.

The present Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel David Claxton was one of the first officers to reach this rank who had had no full time military experience. Much has clearly changed in this, one of the nation's oldest part-time military organizations. Much remains the same.

The author is the Chief Northern Correspondent of The Times and served as a squadron commander and regimental second-in-command of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry from 1954 to 1966.

The T.A.V.R.
Britain's Reserve Army
associated for over 30 years with
Standard Life
The company for pensions.
With an outstanding record of
Investment. Innovation. Organisation.

The largest mutual life assurance company in the European Community.

BLOWPIPE

Already in operation with regular army units in the United Kingdom and Canada, Shorts Blowpipe guided weapon system is to be issued to the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve — giving them a new dimension in man-portable defensive fire power.

For close on two decades Shorts missile systems have dominated the close-range anti-aircraft guided weapon field. Blowpipe, the company's latest GW product, continues this tradition. Lightweight, compact and easily operated, it provides troops with instantly-ready defence against high-speed, low-level air strike, and is the only weapon of its kind now in service designed to destroy attacking aircraft before they release their weapon loads.

Blowpipe's supersonic speed makes it effective against the fastest aircraft target and it also has a useful surface-to-surface capability.

Volunteer Reserve units are already being trained with the new weapon system and it is scheduled to be in service with them by mid '78 — More Power to the T.A.V.R.

SHORTS
Aircraft and Missiles

Elite proves its worth

by Henry Stanhope

The most historic, most illustrious, most extra-ordinary unit of the T.A.V.R. is the Honourable Artillery Company, which was granted its charter by Henry VIII. Its captain-general is the Queen, and its present strength includes the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Kent and Prince Michael.

Mr Edward Heath is perhaps more typical of the well-to-do middle class membership, which draws heavily upon lawyers, accountants, stockbrokers and City businessmen, of whom

pay an annual £15 to use the club's expensive, elegant facilities at The Arches in City Road. These middle members do not belong to the T.A.V.R.'s fighting strength, although many have no such doubts.

They serve for five years or more, much as other T.A.V.R. soldiers, drawing their bounties and their pay—some of which they have to pay back as subscriptions to the HAC. Then they can join their fathers or older brothers in the Veterans' Company and use the HAC as a club. It even has its own masonic lodge and special constabulary.

They are liberally hung with all sorts of equipment, including ammunition pouches, and as Staff Sergeant Michael Ashton, the unit's expert, explains, "You can live in 'em indefinitely but they soon get — hot".

The importance of 222 and the 10 other volunteer field ambulances is that in any emergency it is medical services which need to be expanded rapidly and they provide a reservoir of about 2,000 trained men.

The force's peacetime role, largely concerned with fitness and sick parades, could change overnight to caring for "Stand easy!" and "Have a care!" is the pike-men's equivalent for "Shun!"

The HAC would like to recruit some of its younger members to the company, but they sometimes have to accompany the Lord Mayor on official visits overseas—a duty which only the more senior members, whose time is their own, can perform.

The HAC has not entirely sacrificed its old gunnery skills. These have to be maintained because the company still has the duty of firing royal salutes from the Tower of London on the Queen's birthday and similar state occasions.

The HAC is thus a surprising institution whose lofty attitudes sometimes irritate professional soldiers, not to mention colleagues in the T.A.V.R. Its relationship with the rest of the T.A.V.R. resembles in some ways the relationship between the Guards regiments and the rest of the Army.

But, as its members point out, it came into existence before the Army and thus bears no allegiance to any other regiments or corps. They also point out that despite its elitism it has performed valuable service for Queen and country.

In the First World War as many as 4,000 men were commissioned into other regiments from the HAC, as were a further 3,800 in the Second World War.

The Honourable Artillery Company was formed to provide officers from the City to lead the trained bands of London. That is what it is still doing today.

even the HAC's present special role reflects its elitism and its influence.

The intelligence of HAC members is high—which partly explains the company's rate of success in T.A.V.R. competitions. While other regiments are fiddling around with computers and other new-fangled aids, HAC soldiers, it is said, are working everything out in their heads. They even won a tough route march in Wales several years ago, somewhat to the disgust of paratroop units and others taking part.

They serve for five years or more, much as other T.A.V.R. soldiers, drawing their bounties and their pay—some of which they have to pay back as subscriptions to the HAC. Then they can join their fathers or older brothers in the Veterans' Company and use the HAC as a club. It even has its own masonic lodge and special constabulary.

They are liberally hung with all sorts of equipment, including ammunition pouches, and as Staff Sergeant Michael Ashton, the unit's expert, explains, "You can live in 'em indefinitely but they soon get — hot".

The importance of 222 and the 10 other volunteer field ambulances is that in any emergency it is medical services which need to be expanded rapidly and they provide a reservoir of about 2,000 trained men.

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Well-suited for field work

by John Roper

organization if called for quickly led the field in the competition, which included an assault course, first-aid, map-reading and survival drill which it tends to other units and the judges were impressed when they found out he was "only a part-time soldier".

Why do men, particularly doctors, whose lives are busy and days full, volunteer to give their time to arm medical services? Most lose money. They are paid at regular army rates but a G.P. may have to find at least £25 a day for a locum to look after his practice while he is away. Most of the assistants could earn far more by working overtime in their own jobs.

Often the professional men paper for, say, a driver for a unit, achieve results. The Services' Colonel Chart, an army supervisor in the city engineer's department, has given 18 years' enthusiastic service to the T.A. In its experience national advertising for recruits achieves little.

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Another G.P. in the unit, Dr Paul Wakely, was at RAF squadron leader and Lieutenant Roy Corner, a state registered nurse now working as a representative for a drug company, served in the ranks with the RAMC Major Raja Chandra, force in the British Medical Association, feels that he is doing something for the country, enjoys the excitement of air-sea rescue operations was an example—and finds it a welcome change from the surgery.

All ranks enjoy the comradeship and feel that service with the unit, in which great pride is taken, provides an interest impossible to achieve in a hobby or weekend relaxation. Men and there are many in it from around Nottingham, say they enjoy being in the fresh air, contrast to being, ude.

Some of the younger men are grateful for the part-skills; one, for example, obtained his heavy good driving licence. They say the feeling of being physically fit as a result of service with the unit.

The impression is of men satisfied that they are doing something useful and that despite some drawbacks they enjoy doing it.

The author is Health & Social Services Correspondent, The Times.

Oh! What a lovely corps

continued from previous page

less ones. Friends by hundred of course, but perhaps most important of all is the understanding of what can be achieved through the efforts of the kinsmen under what a real colonel once defined "mutual respect".

Territorial Army officers, be they corporals or colonels, have to produce results without recourse to jokers and the glasshouse. The worst they can do is recruit a recalcitrant soldier to send him home. They can't drive, they have to be regular troops underneath a practical assessment course which the pass rate is only about 11 per cent. He is

Although the residual practical advantages may be limited to being able to read a map rather well and to service my own car, there is worth 22 years of one's life.

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An uphill struggle to maintain strength

About 50,000 of the TAVR's there has been an improvement of 72,500 are recruited. That is not as high as the Army would like, but much better than might be expected after a 'top-go' history which reflected national priorities. Membership went through the roof in 1973-75, when it slumped by 5,000. But it has recovered in the past two years, and the present size is similar to that of regular soldiers.

Recruiting is uneven, but again it could be much job security, but volunteers are reluctant to join the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) volunteers TAVR at such a time and are always hard to get and because they cannot risk incurring their employers' dis- reserves were only 60 per cent for training. They are more

likely to do so when they feel their jobs to be secure.

In general the TAVR has a struggle to maintain its strength. There are over 80 independent units, the Royal Armoured Corps reconnaissance regiments 90 per cent, the Royal Artillery 100 per cent, and the Parachute Regiment reserves are actually 10 per cent over strength.

The pattern of recruiting is different from that for the Army, which is to join the regular Army when there is little civilian work available to create room at the top, but ideally the Army would like to bring down the annual coming and going to about 15 per cent or at worst 20 per cent.

If a man decides to leave

there is not very much that the Army can do about it.

Most recruits say that they joined the TAVR because they had friends in it already. But many also talk about wanting to do something positive, or about serving their country. This may sound a little too good to be true, but they really do say it, and mean it.

Certainly in some parts of London and other large cities the local TAVR centre acts almost as a community centre or youth club for those who join.

One advance has been the practice of paying the volunteers by cheque. In the old days they were paid in cash, which they promptly spent at the drill hall bar.

Now the money goes into the bank, which pleases their wives, if not the bar committee. And anything which pleases the wives of soldiers, he should be prepared to use a fortnight of his annual holiday for the benefit.

Girl friends who might be

attracted by the sight of extra weeks instead of one, the local TAVR associations, which were formed by Lord

of the Army in 1907 (TAVR stands for the Territorial and Volunteer Reserve).

This can upset other Territorial Auxiliary and

Volunteer Reserves.

The 14 associations whose

boundaries correspond

nearly to those of the army districts also have to look after Britain's 494 TAVR centres, as well as a great many huts used by the army cadet forces.

Many professional soldiers regard the associations

as a squarisharchical anachronism and argue for a

complete takeover of the TAVR by the Army.

Total integration however would

be expensive in terms of

money and manpower

because paid civil servants

and soldiers would have to

take on much of the work that is now performed by voluntary labour.

Moreover the associations

provide an important link

between the TAVR and

society. However clumsy the

system looks in theory, in

practice it works and no

irrefutable case has been

presented for changing it.

H.S.

regular soldiers are instructed in the use of the Milan anti-tank system, which is also to be issued to selected TAVR units. The weapon, developed collaboratively by France and Germany and in service in both their armies, is manufactured in Britain by BAC.

Local associations make for efficiency

of the most significant powers in the history of Haldane reforms of the Army in 1907 refers to the creation of command and administration "of the new Territorial Force".

He said that the general principles on which the force structure of the TA and TAVR was to be organized would be assimilated into its form and command to those of the Regular Army, "so far as is sent with the civil service and occupation of members".

The provinces of command and administration, however, are kept rigidly strict, and for the purpose of the latter it has a local machinery of its

own which gave birth to frequently misunderstood county associations, in spite of many misdeeds on their existence in the years by more experienced military minds.

Today in much the form as envisaged 70 years ago.

The soundness of those principles is illustrated by a list of the main duties of TAVR associations set out in a pamphlet published earlier this year. They in-

clude: recruiting and

publicity for the TAVR and relations with the public; liaison with employers, trade unions and local authorities; the provision and maintenance of accommodation and the furnishing, heating, lighting and cleaning of such accommodation, and welfare.

Unity of command, and to some extent, unity of training, are essential to success in the field; but diversity and elasticity in administration are no less essential to the encouragement of local effort and the development of local resources in time of peace.

County associations formed during that period were therefore constituted as bodies "local in origin and situation and cognizant of local capabilities and requirements".

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Widespread losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 3. Dealings End, Oct 14. § Contango Day, Oct 17. Settlement Day, Oct 25

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Mr Jenkins warns Tokyo to cut surplus or risk protectionism

Tokyo, Oct 12.—Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission, gave warning today that Japan must reduce its trade surplus and open its domestic market to foreign goods or face rising protectionism.

Speaking at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, he said 1978 would be a crucial year for determining the world trading climate for a considerable time ahead, and that steel might be the issue which triggered a wave of protectionism.

The EEC has suggested that it would limit the exporting of steel to the United States, the source of the main protectionist

threat in this industry, if the Japanese did likewise.

Mr Jenkins was to meet with Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister this afternoon and with other top officials tomorrow before leaving on Friday.

There were three main problems in EEC trade with Japan: the heavy trade deficit the Community had with Japan (\$420m, about £2,400m in 1976 and likely to be more this year); concentration of Japanese imports in areas such as steel, cars, ball bearings and electro-technical products, areas where the EEC was already facing major problems because of the recession; and the accessibility of the Japanese market to European goods.

He would suggest the establishment of a joint study group, possibly including businessmen, to monitor trade and payments between Japan and the EEC.—AP-Dow Jones.

Nube puts phase two deal to banks

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

The National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) has now formally submitted a phase two pay claim directly to Barclays, National Westminster and Lloyds, where the staff associations are holding out for a 10 per cent deal from August 1.

Mr Leif Mills, Nube general secretary, said yesterday: "There is no chance of us being dragged back into joint bargaining with the staff associations. That is all over."

Mr James Mortimer, chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), is to discuss Nube's withdrawal from the joint bargaining machinery with Mr Mills next week.

Mr Mills said he hoped that Acas would assist the union in its efforts to get separate bargaining rights with the English clearers. The union has also lodged phase two claims with the Midland and Williams & Glyn's.

He is not ruling out the possibility of industrial action in the pursuit of separate bargaining procedures.

Italian industry seeks aid for small concerns

From John Earle

Rome Oct 12

Confindustria, the confederation of Italian private industry, has called on the government to adopt a threefold course of action to stave off disaster for numerous small and medium companies.

Preliminary government analyses indicate that the deficit in 1978 will now be about 19,000,000 lire instead of the previously agreed 14,500,000m.

It wants measures ensuring facilities for settling debts and unpaid invoices, enabling banks to take shareholdings in exposed companies, and lowering the cost of money.

On the second point, Confidustria formally adopted proposals which Signor Guido Carli, its president, has been advancing for two years.

Parliament should pass legislation to lighten their tax burden, and also to make possible the establishment of unit trusts.

On the third point, Confidustria noted the recent rapid fall in the British minimum lending rate, and said a further fall in the cost of money in Italy was indispensable.

The statement treads on delicate ground, as the Italian government now admits that leaving aside this submerged deficit of unpaid bills, even the

openly-recognized public sector deficit will exceed undertakings entered into with the International Monetary Fund.

The state steel undertaking's initiative comes at a time when British-Japanese trading relations have sunk to a low level.

Japanese motor manufacturers—whose exports to the United Kingdom have risen steeply in recent months—are under pressure from Mr Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade, to cut their shipments with the EEC.

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BP wants rig for Buchan field production

By Roger Vielvoe

British Petroleum hopes to sign up by the end of this month a semi-submersible drilling rig for use as a floating production platform on the Buchan oil field.

Owners of large modern semi-submersibles already in service have been asked to tender for either selling or leasing a vessel to BP. It will then be converted into a production unit.

Wells on the Buchan field are already being drilled and production is due to start by the third quarter of 1979. BP's commitment to the floating production platform has increased confidence in the idea, the news sheet, *Eggar Forrester Offshore*, says in a report on the European market for marine equipment. It is expected to influence other field developments.

BP also announced yesterday that drilling on a new geological

structure west of the Magnus field in block 21/12, northeast of Shetland, had ended in failure.

The dry hole does not affect the commercial prospects for the Magnus field. The rig, Sedco 703, has now moved south to block 14/14, immediately north of the Claymore field, where it will drill the first well for a consortium of

BP, Total and ER/Aquaraine.

Two former Iran Deputy Ministers of Commerce, Mr Hossein Alizadeh and Mr Mohammed Ali Seyran, are on trial charged with negligence in arranging long term sugar purchases from Tate & Lyle in February 1975 at too high a price.

Reports from Teheran said the Iranian public prosecutor also planned to try in absentia Mr C. Paul, a director of Tate & Lyle International, and Mr Michael Attfield, a Tate & Lyle director responsible for trading.

When the charges were first announced in early 1976, Tate & Lyle opened its books to Iranian authorities.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

The National Bank of Abu Dhabi has opened its first European branch in London.

The services through this branch will be all you would expect from a major international commercial bank undertaking: multi currency loans, foreign exchange, joint ventures, and trade finance.

The branch will be run on a highly personalised basis for its Arab and overseas clients.

The London Branch Manager is Mr. Roger Coyle, 90 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4AS. Telephone 01-626 8961. Telex 8812085. Cables MASRAFCITY

Head Office: Sheikh Khalifa Street, P.O. Box No. 4, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Extensive representation throughout The Emirates.

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بنك أبوظبي الوطني

NATIONAL BANK OF ABU DHABI

Total assets at 31 December 1976 exceed £1,000,000,000 (U.A.E. Dh. 7,367,163,308).



BSC opens campaign to attract Japanese investment for Britain

From Peter Hill

Rome, Oct 12

A campaign is to be launched by the British Steel Corporation to attract Japanese industrial investment to areas of the United Kingdom where the corporation is planning to run down its steelmaking activities.

A prime target for development is South Wales, where about 10,000 jobs are due to be phased out over the next few years.

Sir Charles Villiers, the BSC chairman, who has recently returned from a two-week visit to China, revealed here today that he will travel to Japan at the beginning of next month with Mr John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, to address Japanese business leaders.

Sir Charles is chairman of the BSC subsidiary, BSC Industries, a company established with the main purpose of securing new investment to provide employment for those workers who lose jobs as a result of the corporation's plant closure programme.

The state steel undertaking's initiative comes at a time when British-Japanese trading relations have sunk to a low level.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Rally follows doubts over money supply and pay

Figures indicating a sharp growth in the money supply lowered share prices to their lowest levels for more than a month. This gloomy sentiment was compounded by doubts over pay, particularly the Ford talks and the miners' decision to press ahead with their £135 a week claim.

Dealers said there was some late interest at the lower levels but the FT Index, 10.1 down at its low point, was still 7.6 off at 504.2 at the closing calculation.

There was a similar pattern

Good buying has pushed up the shares in Smiths Industries 10p to 176p in a week. Most expect Smiths to report (early in November) profits of around £18m against £16.2m for the year to last July. But it now looks as if the group could have managed £20m or so, despite dullness in aerospace.

in the Government bond market, though the post-lunch rally was more substantial than in equities.

Here the firmer tone was mainly brought about by the Bank of England's "moderation" signal on interest rates

which was interpreted to mean another half point cut in MLR this week. There was also a report that a Ford deal was close and long-dated stocks £2 lower at one stage, closed half that amount off as some late buying developed.

At the very short-end prices eased one-eighth or so, while the "mediums" prices dropped in a band between the quarter and one half a point.

Equity dealers, though not happy with the general decline, drew some satisfaction from the fact that the index attracted buying at the generally accepted current support level of 500. It had been below that level since September 1, a period which includes the heavy reaction from the all-time peak.

Though a little off the bottom the industrial leaders ended with losses stretching up to 6p. Falls of their order were recorded by BAT Industries at 277p, Beecham 638p, ICI 418p and Glaxo, still depressed by figures at 585p.

Lanco Chemical, suspended at 135p after terms from the United States, returned to close at 200p. Widespread talk that terms from Trafalgar House may be close gave a lift to

takeover talks had been broken

Fine art group Spink & Son dropped 13p to 280p on the lack of further developments but two supporters separately were Davenport Kiltwear 10p to 40p and Davenport Brewery where the gain was 5p to 57p.

In the motor sector Lucas proved to be a particularly soft spot losing 10p to 295p, component maker Wilmot-Breeden reverted to an unchanged 77p after an initial mark-down to 76p on figures, and Western Motor which turned to 68p.

Comment on the previous day's rights issue hit United

Hay's Wharf which ended 9p to the good at 173p, but BS & Whiteley slumped 16p to 37p, after a low of 25p, on news that

In an effort to attract stock to a persistent demand in a thin market the shares of Ricardo, the research engineer, have been marked up sharply this week, rising 25p to 245p. The demand stemmed from last month's bullish figures and it is hoped the three-for-two scrip issue will ease the thinness of the market.

Discount houses continued to react from their recent gains with Gillett Brothers dropping 12p to 250p and Allen, Harvey & Ross 10p to 575p. Merchant bank Guinness Peat was another weak spot dropping 10p to 218p. Vague but nevertheless depressed competitor European Ferries by no less than 5p to 52p, a reaction which many felt was rather overdone.

In the financial sector the

further pressure now put on

biscuits to the tune of 7p to 160p while in the mining sector Consolidated Gold Fields firm 4p to 215p after the figures and new issue South Crofty was actively traded at an unchanged 65p after touching a top of 71p.

In the shipping sector a single buyer in a narrow market was enough to lift the ever-speculative Hunting Gibson 20p to 290p while news that Sealink plans to keep its prices down depressed competitor European Ferries by no less than 5p to 52p, a reaction which many felt was rather overdone.

In the financial sector the

further pressure now put on

base rates after the latest MLR cut lowered banking issues.

Both Midland at 350p and Lloyds, at 260p, lost 10p with Barclays 7p off at 315p, and National Westminster ending 6p down to 272p.

A mixed showing in proper-

ties had Stock Conversion down

4p to 238p, and Aper, batter

by 5p to 210p at opposing ends

of the range. News of a Mon-

archs clearance for the Allied

London takeover came the late

to help Peasey which eased

half a point to 63p.

Disappointment with figures

lowered mail order house

Empire Stores 11p to 175p, and

Spirax-Sarco was another to

react to a statement closing 10p

lower at 276p.

to 462p, Guardian Royal Ex-
change at 274p and Phoenix at
300p, both 8p off and General
Accident which closed 5p lower
at 262p.

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